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ABSTRACT

Compiled in 1982, this study looked at enrollment patterns in Australian schools since the early 1960's. Data are presented by state and territory and for the nation as a whole. The tables and diagrams indicate great diversity in patterns, but there are several consistent trends. Enrollments in nongovernment (private) schools have increased steadily throughout the past 20 years. Enrollment increases have been smaller in the government public school sector, with absolute decreases in total government enrollments in 1979 and 1980, though 1981 enrollment again increased. The proportion of students attending nongovernment schools declined from 1963 to 1977 but since then has been increasing. (Author/JM)

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AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL

Enrolments in Australian Schools

Report to the
Australian Education Council
prepared by the Steering
Committee for a
Cooperative Study
of School Enrolment Patterns

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AUSTRALIAN
EDUCATION
COUNCIL

Each quadrant of the AEC symbol depicts the silhouette of the capital letter E for Education. It symbolises the inter-governmental nature of the organisation and the eight ministers who together constitute its membership and who are represented on the council's working parties and task forces.

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Preface

At its 44th meeting (October 1981), the Australian Education Council decided to establish a steering committee to conduct a cooperative study of school enrolment patterns. It was agreed that the committee would be chaired by the South Australian Director-General of Education and include representatives of each state and territory and the Commonwealth Schools Commission. A list of members is included in the appendix.

This report was presented to the 45th meeting of the AEC in June 1982. It includes school enrolment statistics from the early 1960s, together with explanatory text which has been compiled from commentary provided by the various education systems. The tables and diagrams contained in the report indicate that patterns are quite different between and within systems, but there are several consistent trends which can be taken into account for predictive and planning purposes, viz :

- enrolments in non-government schools have increased steadily throughout the past 20 years
- enrolment increases have been smaller in the government school sector, with absolute decreases in total government enrolments in 1979 and 1980
- the proportion of students attending non government schools declined from 1963 to 1977, but since then has been increasing.

Members of the steering committee and the AEC were of the view that this report would contribute further to the broad factual and descriptive data about school enrolment levels and patterns which is already available. However, it was agreed that the data in the report is subject to limitations arising from the aggregation of data to state and national levels. As a result of the compilation :

- differences within systems are lost, e.g. between rural and metropolitan levels
- differences between state patterns are masked, e.g. between states with smaller but increasing enrolments and states with declining enrolments
- the practice of using government/non government classification obscures important differences within the non/government sectors.

It is important, in the interest of constructive debate and research, that these limitations be recognised when further analysis and discussion regarding changing patterns of school enrolments is taking place.

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1 Introduction

As part of the cooperative study of school enrolment patterns, each state and territory education system provided enrolment data from the early 1960s. This data was based on statistics published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The data has been drawn together in this report to provide comparative information for each system and for Australia.

In addition, each system submitted commentary and analysis in relation to enrolment patterns. The comments presented in the report are largely those raised by systems. An attempt has been made to group the various aspects of comment and analysis under several main categories of headings.

2 Interpretation of Figures

2.1 Care should be taken in interpreting the tables, graphs and figures included in this paper, particularly in terms of possible trends in school enrolment patterns.

2.2 It should be noted that aggregation of data to system and national levels acts to obscure important differences. For example :

- Enrolment patterns vary significantly within systems, between regions, between urban and rural areas, or even within large regions. These differences are lost in the compilation of system level data.
- Similarly, the aggregation of system figures to produce national level figures has the effect of masking differing state patterns. Patterns may be quite different between systems; for example, between the states with smaller but increasing enrolments, and states with declining enrolment levels.

2.3 The data presented in this report have also been influenced by factors such as the following.

- Figures provided by systems do not always coincide with those published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The differences are due mainly to different categorisation of schools, and ungraded and special classes.
- Non government schools may be included under different categories over time because of changes in religious affiliation or in the publication categories.
- Figures from WA include pre-primary students as has been the ABS practice since 1961 whereas such students have been excluded by other systems.
- Over the period covered by the figures there have been structural changes in several systems including, for example, an additional year of secondary education in NSW and ACT, separation of preparatory and year 1 in Vic and change of year 8 from primary to secondary in Qld.
- Changing administrative and educational patterns in the technical and further education area may also have affected school enrolments in some systems.

3 Analysis of State/Territory Returns

3.1 The eight state and territory education systems in Australia each supplied data on school enrolments based on ABS published data. The system returns have been summarised to present a national picture for enrolment trends over the past 20 years.

3.2 The seven tables provided by each system to the committee were:

- Enrolments X category of school[1]
- Enrolments X government/anglican[2]/catholic/other
- Per cent enrolments X grade X government/catholic/other
- Change in enrolments X government/anglican/catholic/other
- Enrolments X grade X government/catholic/other
- Per cent enrolments X grade X government/catholic/other
- Number of schools X category of school[1]

3.3 These tables were shown to have deficiencies when the task of preparing national level and state comparative data was undertaken. It would have been useful, for example, to have sought far greater breakdown between primary and secondary enrolments.

3.4 The following main points were noted from analysis of the data.

- Total school enrolments decreased in 1979/80 for the first time in the past 20 years. In 1981 enrolments again increased. (Figure 5.1)
- Individual states/territories showed different enrolment patterns, e.g. Qld, WA, NT, and ACT had annual increases throughout the past 20 years, while NSW, Vic, SA and Tas had periods of decline. (Figure 5.3)
- Non government schools showed an increase in total enrolments throughout this period while government schools had a period of decline. (Figure 7.1, Table 7.1)
- Proportion of non government enrolments showed a decline between 1963 and 1977 to a low point in 1977, and then between 1978 and 1981 increased towards the high level of 1963. (Table 8.1)
- Progression rate analysis from primary to secondary grades over the past ten years shows, for government schools, an apparent loss of

1. Category of school—Government, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Baptist, Jewish, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Seventh Day Adventist (SDA), Undenominational, Other.
2. Whilst the term "Church of England" is still used in ABS statistics, the term "Anglican" is used in this report because the Church of England in Australia changed its name to the Anglican Church of Australia with effect from 24 August, 1981.

students, but for non government schools, an apparent gain of students. (Figure 9.1)

- Proportion of non government schools has increased marginally. (Figure 10.1)
- Average size of non government schools has increased while government school sizes increased till 1977 and then declined. (Figures 10.2, 10.3, 10.4)

3.5 The tables, graphs and commentary prepared from the state and territory contributions are set out in the remainder of this report under the following seven headings:

- School enrolments in states/territories
- School enrolments related to population
- Enrolments in government or non government schools
- Proportion of non government enrolments
- Primary/secondary school enrolments
- Progression rates from primary to secondary
- Number of schools, average enrolments.

4 Commentary and Observations

4.1 Most of the material contained in the system commentaries was of a descriptive nature and, where appropriate, has been included as notes to the various graphs and tables contained in the report. The purpose of this section is to identify commentary and observations provided by systems. The comments included here could form the basis for discussion of some of the national data.

4.2 ***Growth in student numbers in non government schools.*** In terms of absolute growth in student numbers, the greatest increases have been in the Roman Catholic (RC) sector. Enrolment increases in other non government sectors may largely be due to the growth of new style schools which developed during the late 1970s. It should be noted that the practice of using government/non government classifications tends to obscure the important differences within the non government sector. (See Table 8.2)

4.3 ***Number of schools.*** It might be argued that the number of schools opened or closed would be a relevant issue. While there are differences among states, the number of government schools declined over the period 1970 to 1977, but since 1978 there has been a slight increase. This is a reflection of change in policies related to such matters as consolidation of rural schools and schools in areas of enrolment decline, as well as new schools in developing areas. These trends in school numbers appear contrary to enrolment trends. This indicates, among other things, that regional school population movement patterns may vary significantly from the general statewide trend.

It appears that the number of Anglican, Roman Catholic, Uniting Church and Presbyterian schools has declined and the number of Lutheran schools has remained small but constant. The number of Seventh Day Adventist, other denominational and other non government schools has increased. The most marked growth in the non government sector has been in schools outside the mainstream denominational categories.

4.4 ***Variations in enrolments.*** Enrolment variations across the period surveyed were much greater in the government than the non government sector. (Table 7.1). Initial or new enrolments at the start of primary school have increased in non government schools and decreased in

government schools. At other levels there is an apparent net transfer of enrolments between the two sectors. This is particularly evident at the transition between primary and secondary levels. Non government schools other than Roman Catholic have absorbed most of these students.

4.5 ***Within state differences.*** NSW reported significant within state differences in enrolment patterns. Proportional changes in government and non government school enrolments, for example, were found to be much greater in metropolitan than in non metropolitan regions. Since 1978, the proportion of metropolitan enrolments in government schools has declined by 2.07%. By comparison, the corresponding figure for the non metropolitan regions of NSW is only 0.53%. In three non metropolitan regions, the proportions of government school enrolments increased in the period 1971 to 1981. This contrasts with decreasing trends in the five metropolitan regions.

4.6 ***Enrolments in Roman Catholic schools.*** After some small decline for short periods, Roman Catholic enrolments are still increasing. While Roman Catholic primary enrolments have, until recent years, been steadily declining, secondary enrolments have experienced consistent growth. These increases in Catholic enrolments have partly been a result of increased retention rates in upper secondary years, and increasing retentiveness of the Catholic system between years 6 and 7.

4.7 ***Enrolment changes over years of schooling.*** The variables associated with years of schooling provide a key to changing enrolment patterns. While Figure 10.1 and Table 10.1 give an indication of grade progression from primary to secondary levels, the detailed tabulations provided by systems permits a more general consideration of grade progression rates at different year levels. This analysis indicates that almost all grades in non government schools retained a relatively higher proportion of students. In many cases there was a net increase in students. Non government schools other than Roman Catholic have experienced consistent increases in student numbers across all year groupings from year 1 to year 9 inclusive, and particularly between years 6 and 7. At junior secondary level grade retention rates in all schools appear to be increasing. The post compulsory schooling years are more difficult to analyse because it is no longer a "closed" system. There are also major differences among the states. Consider the following examples which can be observed in some systems.

- The decreases in the proportion of government enrolments in years 11 and 12 are the largest for any of the secondary school years. It is not possible, however, to partition these proportional differences so as to discriminate between differences in retention rates in years 11 and 12 in government and non government schools, and differences in pupil transfer between sectors.
- The year 11 trends seem to point to the fact that for the ACT,

enrolments in government colleges for year 11 took an increasingly larger share from 1975 to 1981.

- At year 11 level, in both 1980 and 1981 the government schools accounted for increasing proportions of students. Much of this movement, however, could be due to the increased participation of mature age students at senior secondary level, rather than due to students leaving non government schools at the end of year 10 to attend government secondary schools.
- By year 12, government school enrolments usually account for an increased proportion of all state year 12 students, relative to year 11 pupils. Again, this apparent transfer is considered to be a statistical artefact, rather than due to actual student transfer. The proportional change is more likely due to the government sector's increased year 11 and 12 retention rate.

The effects of migration, interstate movement, and withdrawal from schooling on the enrolment pattern are complex. For example, after year 9 the movement between systems becomes increasingly confounded with movement out of the entire schooling system. Even at levels below year 9 it is difficult to allow for factors such as the effect of interstate and overseas migration, students who repeat and students who leave school altogether.

4.8 ***Demographic considerations.*** The most important factor in determining school enrolment patterns is the proportion of school aged persons in the total population. Trends in such demographic factors are far more influential in government school enrolments. By and large, however, the non government sector has not shown a response to variations in the population of school age children. Non government enrolments have not risen or fallen to a degree which significantly mirrors movements in population aggregates, but appear to be influenced by other factors such as availability of schools in the area, economic factors and parent attitudes.

5 School Enrolments: States/ Territories

5.1 ***Total Australian enrolments.*** (Figure 5.1). Since 1963 total enrolments in Australian schools increased each year up until 1978, then in 1979 and 1980 enrolments actually decreased, followed in 1981 by an increase to the highest level in Australian history.

5.2 ***Rate of growth.*** (Figure 5.2). The annual rate of growth for total school enrolments in Australia was greatest in the 1960s, possibly reflecting the effects of post war migration policies (early 1950s). The growth rate between 1963 and 1981 declined with a modest temporary recovery in 1975/76.

5.3 ***State territory enrolments.*** (Figure 5.3). An analysis of system enrolment changes reveals that in Qld, WA and ACT enrolments increased each year from 1963 to 1981. The NT showed a temporary decline in 1975, presumably due to "Cyclone Tracy". Vic experienced a period of decline commencing in 1979. NSW, SA and Tas had two periods of decline, the first around 1973 and a second commencing in 1976 for SA, 1977 for Tas, and 1979 for NSW, and continuing till 1981.

Figure 5.1 Total school enrolments : Australia 1963-1981

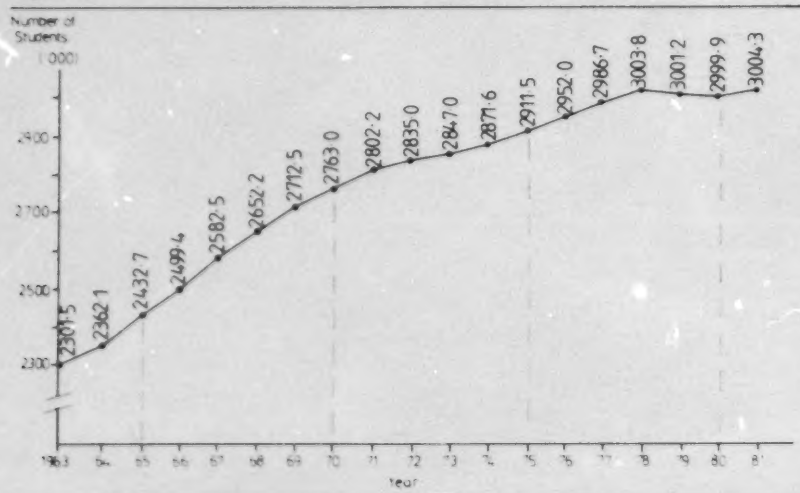
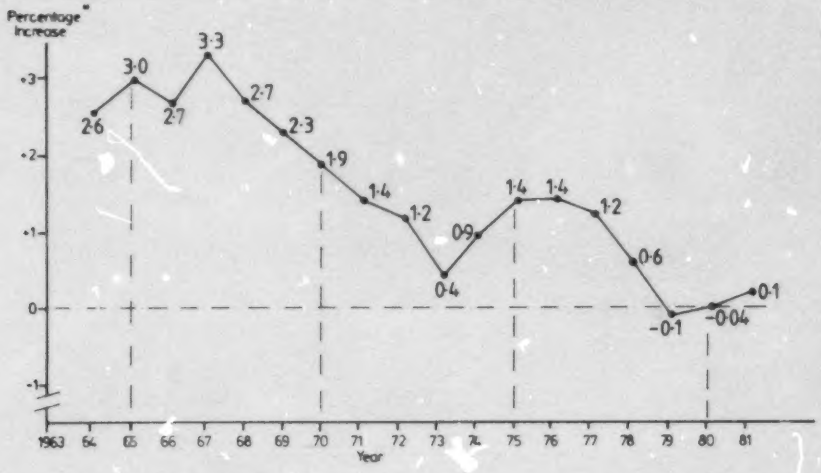
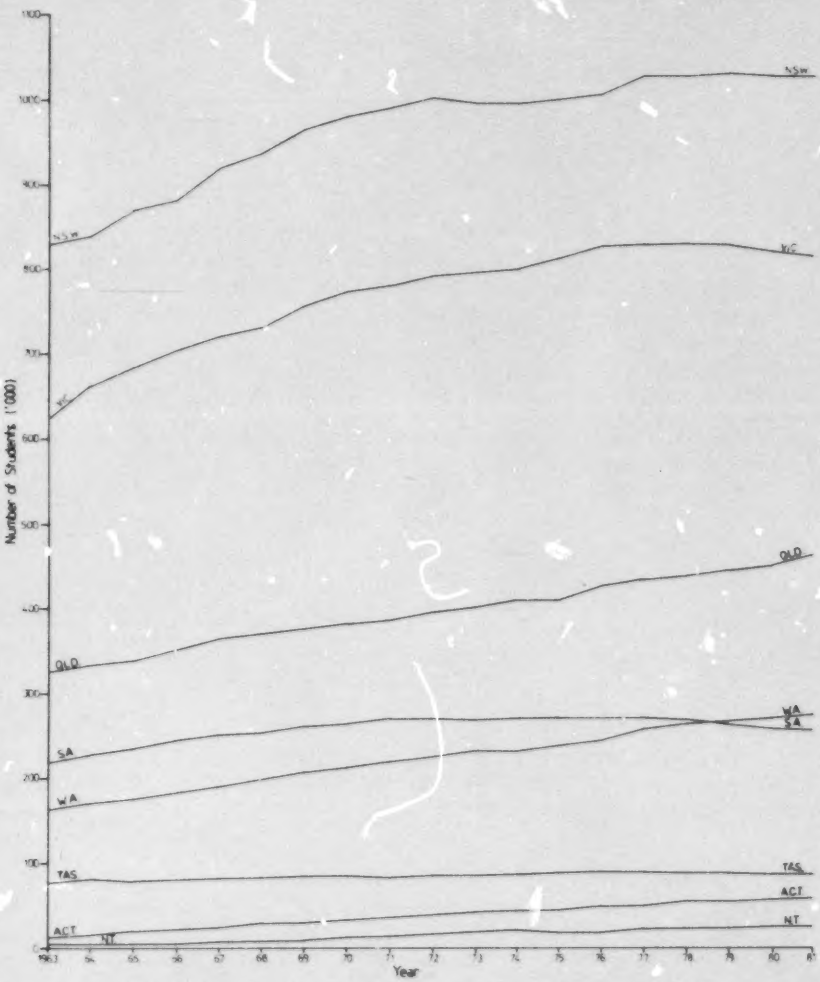


Figure 5.2 Percentage change (annual) in enrolments for Australia 1964-1981



* Over Previous Year

Figure 5.3 Enrolments in all schools : states/territories 1963-1981



6 School Enrolments Related to Population

6.1 One useful way of looking at school enrolments trends is to relate enrolments to population figures. The simplest way of doing this is to calculate enrolments per 1000 of total population. This is what has been done in this report. An alternative approach would be to relate enrolments to a limited component of the population; for example, those most relevant to the typical parent group (say aged 25 - 49). For older students it is also possible to calculate enrolments as a proportion of students in that age group (say 15 - 19).

6.2 ***Total Australia.*** (Figure 6.1). The participation rate shows an increasing trend from 1963 (210/1000 population) to 1969 (221/1000 population) followed by fluctuating decline till 1981 (203/1000 population).

6.3 ***Government schools.*** (Figure 6.1). Government school enrolment rates per 1000 population have followed the pattern displayed by total Australia enrolment rates, going from 160/1000 population in 1963, peaking in 1975 (174.4) and then declining to 156 in 1981.

6.4 ***Non government schools.*** (Figure 6.1). Non government school enrolment rates display a different pattern, declining from 1966 (51/1000 population) to a low 45/1000 population in 1977, followed by a gradual increase to 46.5/1000 population in 1981.

6.5 ***State and territory differences.*** (Figure 6.2, 6.3 , 6.4). All systems except NT seem to display very similar patterns of fluctuations between 1963 and 1981, following the Australian pattern. The NT displays similar peaks and trougns, but they are more extreme.

Figure 5.1 Enrolments per 1000 population : Australia 1963-1981

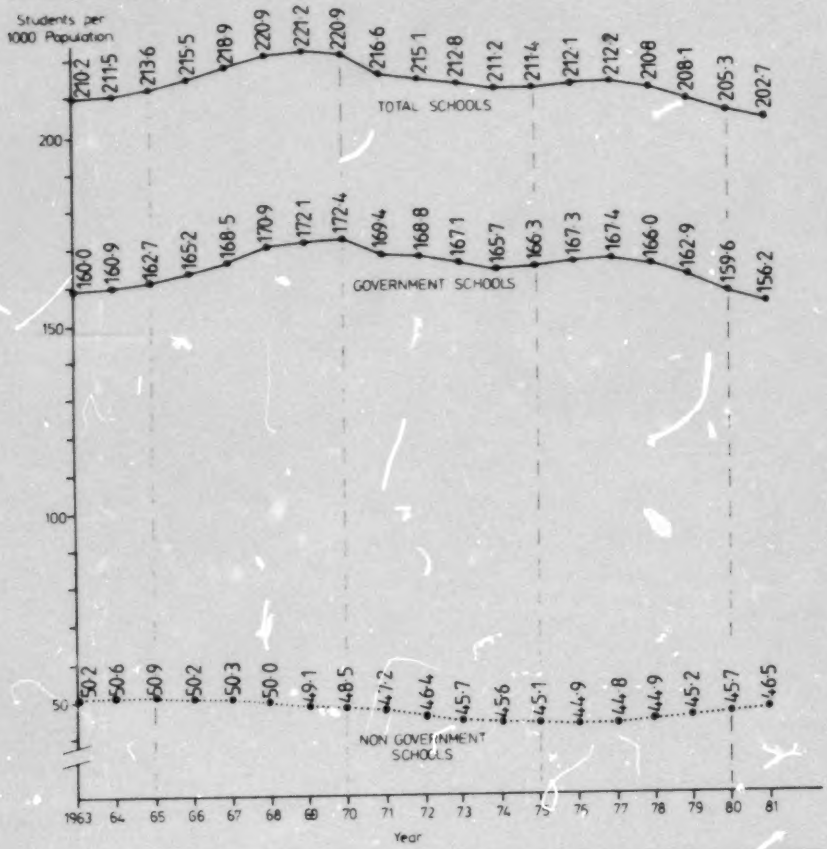


Figure 6.2 **Enrolments in all schools per 1000 population : states/territories 1963-1981**

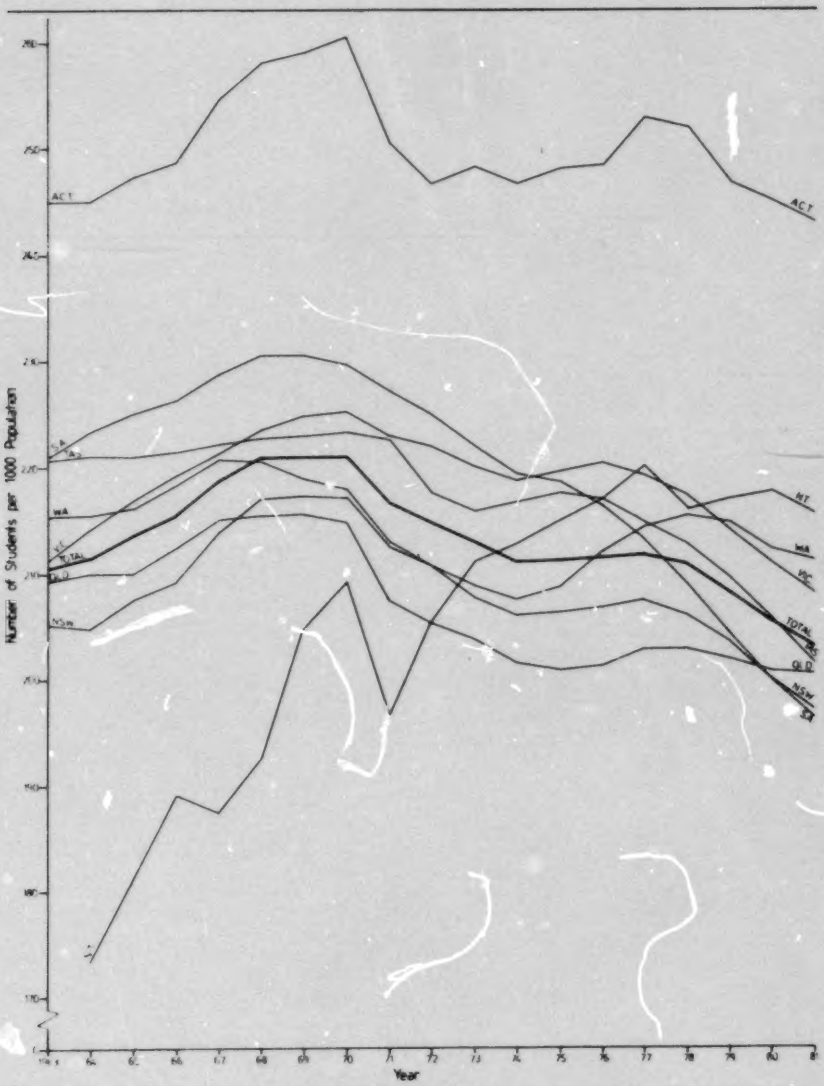


Figure 6.3 **Enrolments in government schools per 1000 population : states/ territories 1963-1981**

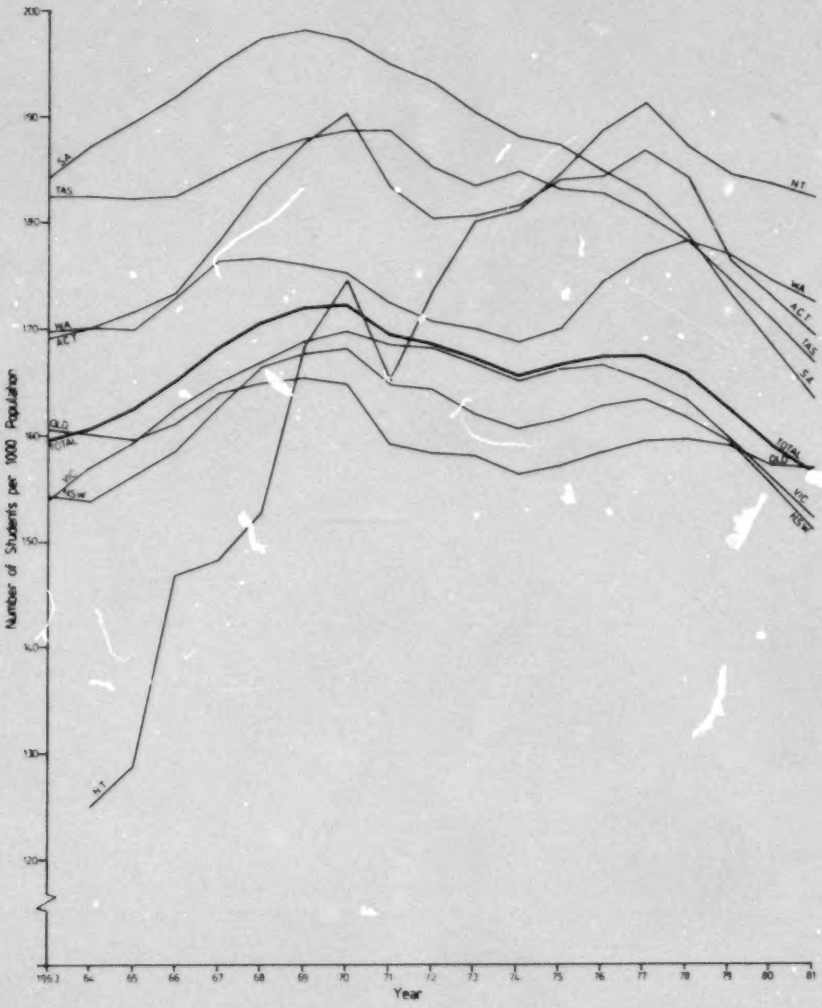
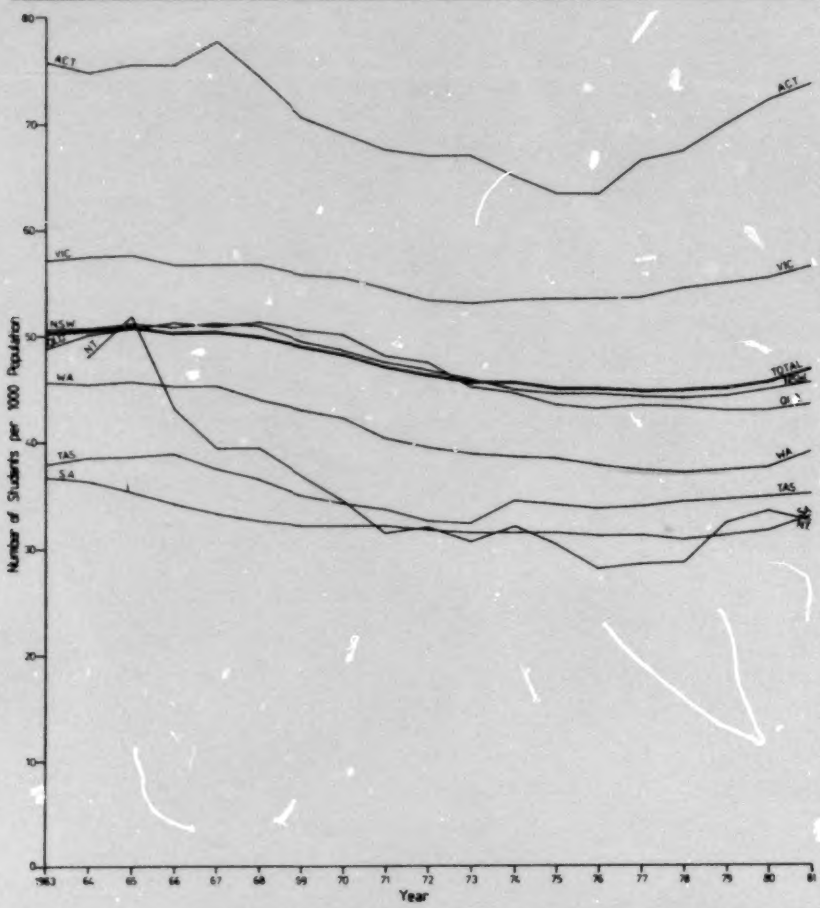


Figure 6.4 **Enrolments in non government schools per 1000 population : states/territories 1963-1981**



7 Enrolments in Government/Non Government Schools

7.1 ***Total Australia.*** (Figure 7.1, 7.3, Table 7.2). Total enrolments in non government schools have increased each year from 1963 to 1981, while government school enrolments have increased from 1963 to 1978 and then declined from 1979 to 1981.

7.2 ***Rate of growth.*** (Figure 7.2, Table 7.1). The rate of annual growth in non government school enrolments declined from 2.8% in 1964 to a low of 0.2% in 1972, followed by an increase to 3.3% in 1981. For government schools, the rate of growth declined from 2.6% in 1964 to -0.8% in 1981. From 1978 to 1981 the non government annual growth rate exceeded the government school's rate, while prior to this it was the reverse.

7.3 ***State/territory enrolments : government.*** (Figure 7.4). School enrolments increased each year between 1963 and 1981 for Qld and WA. The NT showed a temporary decline in 1975 due to "Cyclone Tracy". Vic and ACT had one period of decline commencing in 1978 and 1979 respectively. NSW, SA and Tas had two periods of decline, one around 1973 and a second commencing in 1976 for SA, 1977 for Tas, 1979 for NSW, and continuing to 1981.

7.4 ***State/territory enrolments: non government.*** (Figure 7.5). School enrolments in Vic, WA, NT and ACT, have increased for each year from 1963 to 1981 (except for NT in the "cyclone year" 1975). For the remaining states, NSW, Qld, SA and Tas, non government enrolments declined at some stage between 1963 and 1981; for NSW in 1974 to 1976, Qld 1973 and 1975, SA 1972 and Tas 1972 to 1973 and 1976.

Table 7.1 Percentage change in enrolments : Australia 1963-1981

	Government		Non Government		Total	
	Enrolments (000's)	% Increase	Enrolments (000's)	% Increase	Enrolments (000's)	% Increase
1963	1752.1	-	549.4	-	2301.5	-
1964	1797.3	2.6	564.8	2.8	2362.1	2.6
1965	1852.6	3.1	580.1	2.7	2432.7	3.0
1966	1916.6	3.5	582.8	0.5	2499.4	2.7
1967	1988.6	3.7	593.9	1.9	2582.5	3.3
1968	2052.3	3.2	599.9	1.0	2652.2	2.7
1969	2110.6	2.8	601.8	0.3	2712.5	2.3
1970	2156.0	2.2	607.0	0.9	2763.0	1.9
1971	2192.1	1.7	610.1	0.5	2802.2	1.4
1972	2224.6	1.5	611.0	0.2	2835.0	1.2
1973	2235.4	0.5	611.7	0.2	2847.0	0.4
1974	2253.3	0.8	618.3	1.1	2871.6	0.9
1975	2290.7	1.6	620.8	0.4	2911.5	1.4
1976	2327.5	1.6	624.5	0.7	2952.0	1.4
1977	2356.2	1.2	630.5	0.9	2986.7	1.2
1978	2364.6	0.4	639.2	1.3	3003.8	0.6
1979	2350.0	-0.6	651.2	1.9	3001.2	-0.1
1980	2332.3	-0.8	667.7	2.5	2999.9	-0.04
1981	2314.8	-0.8	689.5	3.3	3004.3	0.1

Table 7.2 Enrolments in government and non government schools by category of school : Australia 1963-1981

	GOVERNMENT	NON GOVERNMENT				TOTAL
		Anglican	Roman Catholic	Other Non Government	Total	
1963	1,752,120	41,993	451,460	55,914	549,367	2,301,487
1964	1,797,255	42,785	462,872	59,152	564,809	2,362,064
1965	1,852,620	44,031	476,183	59,862	580,076	2,432,696
1966	1,916,618	44,121	478,305	60,324	582,750	2,499,368
1967	1,988,640	45,836	486,119	61,952	593,907	2,582,547
1968	2,052,265	46,570	490,080	63,307	599,957	2,652,222
1969	2,110,632	47,236	490,254	64,349	601,839	2,712,471
1970	2,155,960	48,241	493,003	65,797	607,041	2,763,001
1971	2,192,069	48,938	493,976	67,234	610,148	2,802,217
1972	2,223,986	49,426	492,129	69,443	610,998	2,834,984
1973	2,235,365	50,031	490,928	70,709	611,668	2,847,033
1974	2,253,307	50,511	494,055	73,757	618,323	2,871,630
1975	2,290,690	50,660	496,050	74,085	620,795	2,911,485
1976	2,327,545	50,759	498,597	75,108	624,464	2,952,009
1977	2,356,190	51,613	501,857	77,013	630,483	2,986,673
1978	2,364,604	52,657	506,318	80,202	639,177	3,003,781
1979	2,349,957	54,074	512,908	84,241	651,223	3,001,180
1980	2,332,263	55,370	522,947	89,344	667,661	2,999,924
1981	2,314,800	58,119	535,352	96,047	689,518	3,004,318

Figure 7.1 Government and non government school enrolments 1963-1981

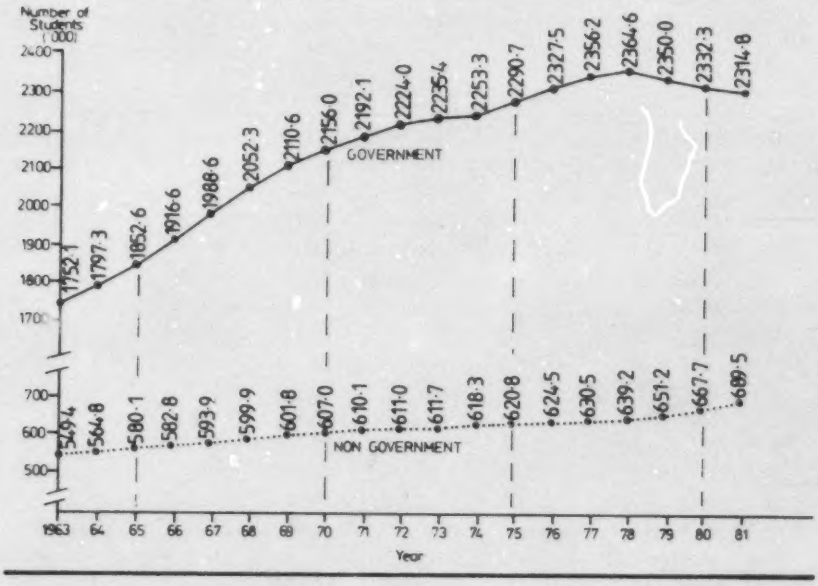


Figure 7.2 Percentage change in enrolments for government/non government schools 1964-1981

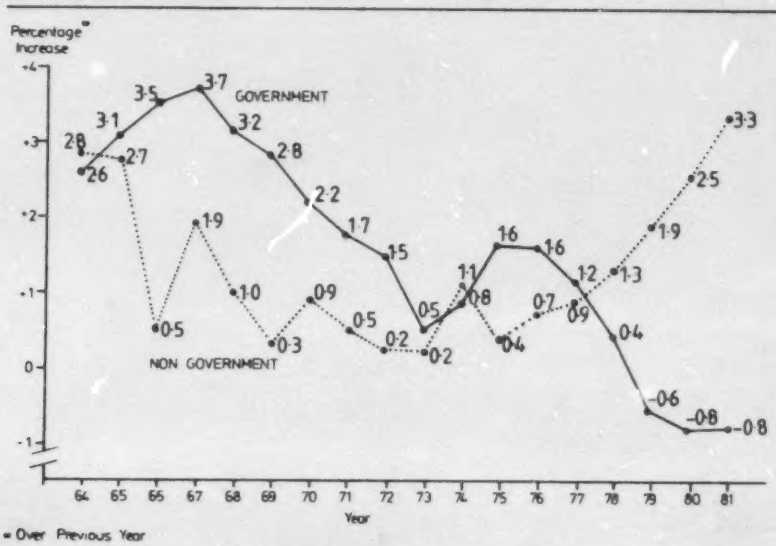


Figure 7.3 Non government school enrolments 1963-1981

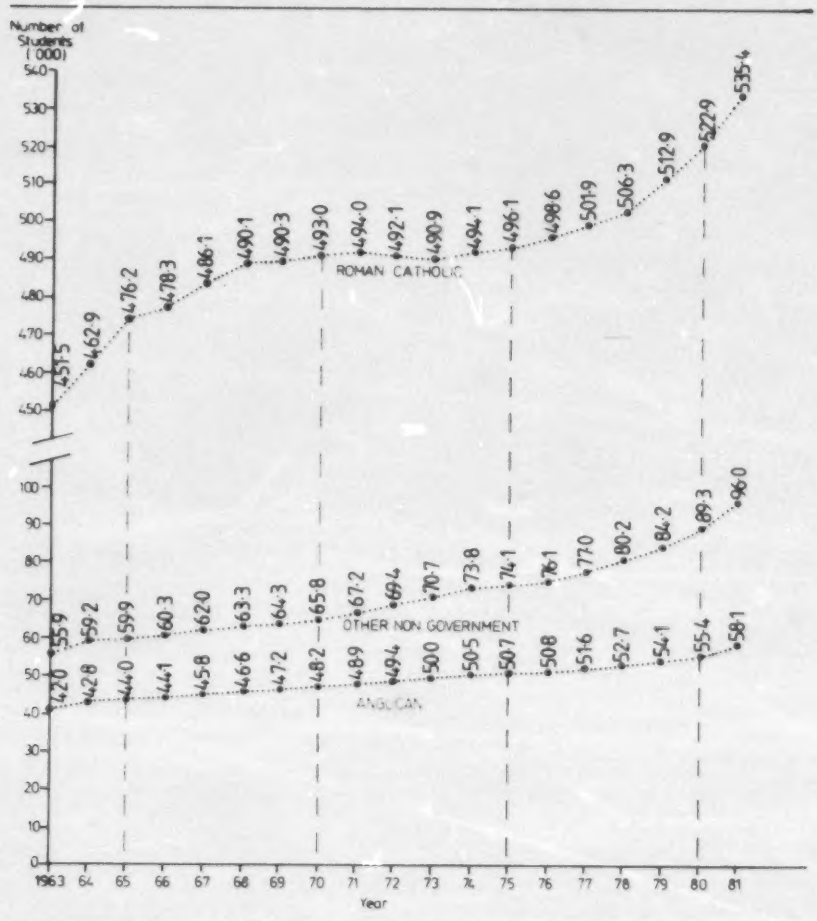


Figure 7.4 Enrolments in government schools : states/territories 1963-1981

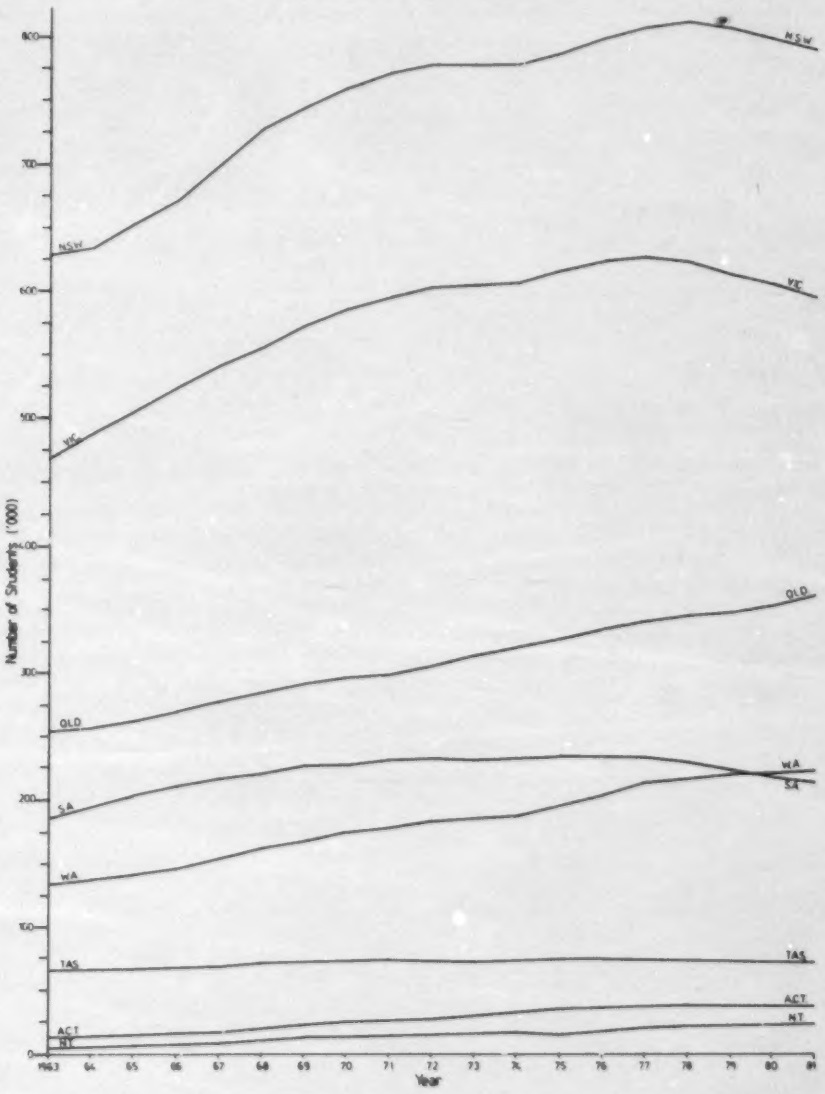
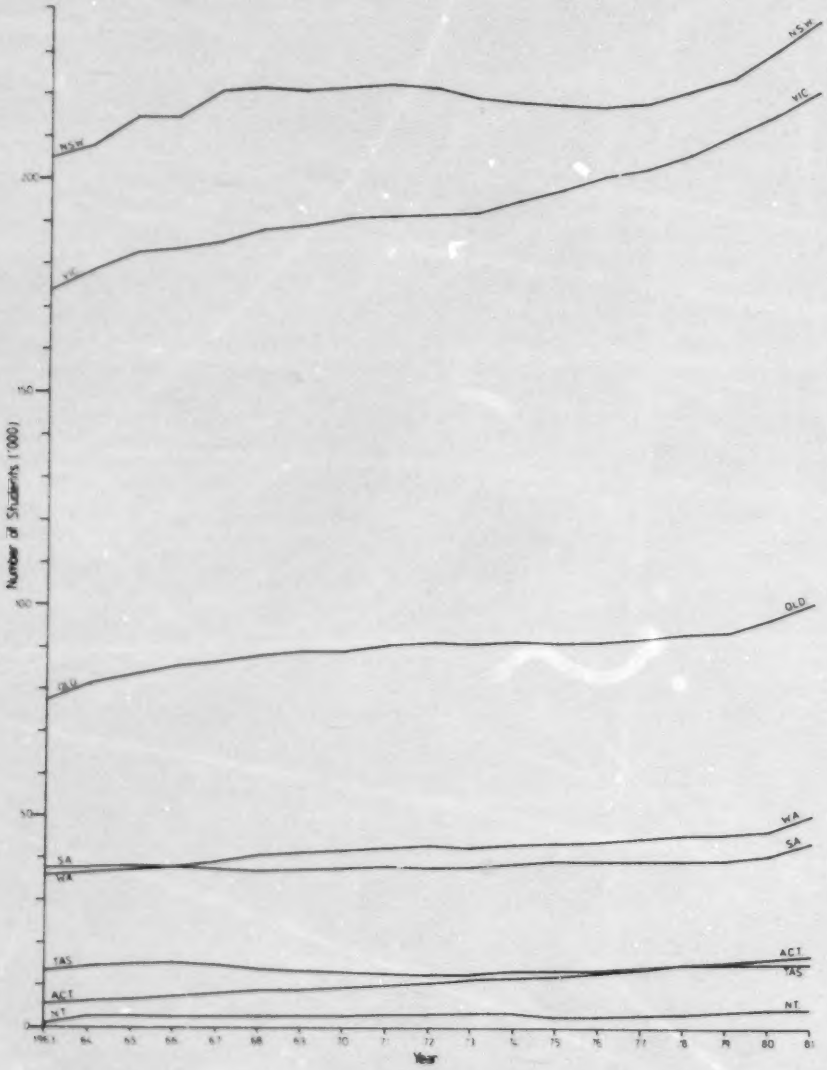


Figure 7.5 **Enrolments in non government schools : states/territories 1973-1981**



8 Proportion of Non Government Enrolments

8.1 ***Australian total.*** (Figure 8.1, Table 8.1). Vic, NSW and the ACT have experienced non government enrolment proportions which have consistently been greater than the national proportion. The WA, NT, Tas and SA non government proportions are considerably lower than the national figure. The proportion of non government school enrolments declined from 23.9% in 1963 to a low of 21.1% in 1977, and increased to 23.0% in 1981. The Anglican sector remained fairly constant with 1.8% in 1963 and 1.9% in 1981, and reached a low of 1.7% in 1969 to 1972 and 1975 to 1977. The Roman Catholic sector has shown more variation, from 19.6% in 1963 to 17.8% in 1981 with a low of 16.8% in 1977. The "other" group has grown from 2.4% in 1963 to 3.2% in 1981.

8.2 ***State/territory non government proportions.*** (Table 8.1, Figures 8.2, 8.3). Systems generally declined in the proportion of non government enrolments at some stage between 1963 and 1976, and then from 1977 to 1978 to 1981 increased towards the previous 1963 proportion. Once again the Anglican proportions remained fairly constant in most systems, while the Roman Catholic and "other" proportions show more variation.

8.3 ***Differences within non government sector.*** (Table 8.2). The practice of using government/non government classifications tends to obscure important differences within the non government sector. Roman Catholic schools have accounted for most of the enrolment increases over the past three years with expansion being 54.7%, 61.1% and 56.7% of the increase in the sector as a whole in each of the years respectively (Table 8.1).

The group labelled "other" non government schools, which includes all the new style schools which have developed during the late 1970s, has accounted for another 33.5%, 31% and 30.7% respectively over the last three years. Of the total increase in the non government schools sector, 88.2%, 92.1% and 97.4% of it can be accounted for by increases in Roman Catholic and "other" largely new style schools.

The increases in the traditional non government schools, as exemplified by Anglican schools, has been a relatively small part of the increase, viz. 11.8%, 7.9% and 12.6% respectively over the last three years.

Despite the large increases in Roman Catholic school enrolments over the last three years, they are still less than the percentage of total

school enrolments which applied from 1963 to 1969. The increase in Anglican school enrolments as a percentage of total school enrolments has changed only from 1.8% in 1963 to 1.9% in 1981. The "other" non government school enrolments, while changing little as a percentage of total school enrolments from 1963 to 1976, have shown a large surge since then from a stable 2.5% to 3.2%.

Table 8.1 Enrolments in government and non government schools as a percentage of total enrolments : states/territories 1963-1981

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
				GOVERNMENT					
1963	75.3	73.0	76.6	83.4	78.7	82.7	82.4	68.8	76.1
1964	75.3	73.2	76.1	83.8	78.9	82.6	72.1	69.4	76.1
1965	75.3	73.4	75.9	84.3	78.8	82.5	71.5	69.4	76.2
1966	75.8	74.1	76.0	84.9	79.3	82.5	77.8	69.6	76.7
1967	76.1	74.4	76.3	85.3	79.6	83.2	79.1	69.9	77.0
1968	76.7	74.7	76.4	85.8	79.9	83.7	79.5	71.1	77.4
1969	77.1	75.1	76.6	86.0	80.4	84.3	82.0	72.5	77.8
1970	77.4	75.4	76.7	86.0	80.6	84.7	83.5	73.2	78.0
1971	77.6	75.6	76.8	85.9	81.0	84.8	83.8	73.0	78.2
1972	77.9	75.8	77.1	86.1	81.3	85.1	84.5	72.9	78.4
1973	77.9	75.8	77.6	85.9	81.3	85.1	85.4	73.0	78.5
1974	78.0	75.6	77.7	85.7	81.4	84.2	85.1	73.6	78.5
1975	78.3	75.7	78.2	85.7	81.6	84.3	85.8	74.3	78.7
1976	78.6	75.7	78.5	85.6	82.1	84.4	87.1	74.5	78.8
1977	78.7	75.5	78.6	85.5	82.5	84.2	87.0	73.8	78.9
1978	78.6	75.1	78.6	85.4	82.6	83.8	86.9	73.2	78.7
1979	78.2	74.4	78.6	84.9	82.5	83.5	85.1	71.7	78.3
1980	77.6	73.7	78.4	84.2	82.2	83.2	84.5	70.6	77.7
1981	76.9	72.9	78.3	83.1	81.6	82.7	84.7	69.6	77.1
				NON GOVERNMENT - ANGLICAN					
1963	1.4	2.3	1.5	1.9	2.0	2.2	-	5.6	1.8
1964	1.4	2.3	1.6	1.7	2.0	2.2	-	5.4	1.8
1965	1.4	2.3	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.1	-	5.3	1.8
1966	1.4	2.2	1.6	1.7	2.0	2.1	-	5.1	1.8
1967	1.4	2.2	1.5	1.7	2.0	2.1	-	5.2	1.8
1968	1.4	2.2	1.5	1.6	2.0	2.0	-	5.0	1.8
1969	1.4	2.2	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.0	-	4.7	1.7
1970	1.5	2.2	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.9	-	4.5	1.7
1971	1.5	2.2	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.8	-	4.5	1.7
1972	1.5	2.2	1.4	1.4	1.8	1.7	-	4.6	1.7
1973	1.5	2.3	1.4	1.4	1.9	1.7	-	4.4	1.8
1974	1.5	2.3	1.4	1.4	1.9	1.8	-	4.3	1.8
1975	1.4	2.4	1.4	1.4	1.8	1.8	-	4.2	1.7
1976	1.4	2.4	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.8	-	4.0	1.7
1977	1.4	2.4	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.9	-	4.0	1.7
1978	1.4	2.4	1.3	1.3	1.6	2.0	-	3.9	1.8
1979	1.5	2.5	1.4	1.4	1.7	2.0	-	4.0	1.8
1980	1.5	2.6	1.4	1.5	1.7	2.1	-	3.9	1.8
1981	1.6	2.7	1.4	1.6	1.9	2.1	-	3.9	1.9

Continued on page 32

Table 8.1 Enrolments in government and non government schools as a percentage of total enrolments : States/territories 1963-1981 *Continued*

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
				NON GOVERNMENT - ROMAN CATHOLIC					
1963	21.3	21.5	19.8	11.7	17.4	12.3	17.6	25.6	19.6
1964	21.4	21.4	19.9	11.5	17.3	12.5	16.2	25.2	19.6
1965	21.4	21.3	20.2	11.1	17.3	12.7	15.9	25.3	19.6
1966	21.0	20.6	20.1	10.6	16.8	12.7	14.2	25.3	19.1
1967	20.7	20.2	19.9	10.2	16.4	12.0	14.2	25.0	18.8
1968	20.1	20.1	19.8	9.8	16.1	11.6	13.7	23.8	18.5
1969	19.6	19.7	19.5	9.6	15.6	11.0	13.1	22.8	18.1
1970	19.3	19.4	19.4	9.7	15.4	10.9	12.6	22.4	17.8
1971	19.1	19.1	19.3	9.8	14.9	10.8	12.4	22.5	17.6
1972	18.8	18.8	19.0	9.7	14.6	10.5	11.7	22.0	17.4
1973	18.7	18.7	18.6	9.8	14.5	10.5	11.2	22.1	17.2
1974	18.6	18.7	18.5	9.9	14.3	11.2	11.8	21.5	17.2
1975	18.4	18.6	18.2	10.0	14.2	11.2	11.3	20.9	17.0
1976	18.2	18.5	18.0	10.1	13.7	11.1	11.8	20.9	16.9
1977	18.0	18.5	17.8	10.1	13.3	11.2	12.3	21.7	16.8
1978	18.0	18.7	17.7	10.1	13.2	11.5	12.3	22.4	16.9
1979	18.2	19.1	17.6	10.3	13.2	11.7	13.7	23.8	17.1
1980	18.6	19.6	17.6	10.7	13.4	11.7	14.1	24.8	17.4
1981	19.0	20.1	17.5	11.3	13.7	12.0	13.5	25.6	17.8
				NON GOVERNMENT - OTHER					
1963	2.0	3.2	2.1	3.0	1.9	2.8	-	-	2.4
1964	2.0	3.2	2.5	3.0	1.9	2.7	11.7	-	2.5
1965	1.9	3.1	2.4	2.9	1.9	2.7	12.6	-	2.5
1966	1.8	3.1	2.4	2.8	2.0	2.7	8.0	-	2.4
1967	1.9	3.1	2.3	2.7	2.0	2.6	6.7	-	2.4
1968	1.8	3.1	2.4	2.7	2.1	2.7	6.8	-	2.4
1969	1.8	3.0	2.4	2.8	2.1	2.7	4.9	-	2.4
1970	1.8	3.0	2.5	2.8	2.1	2.6	3.9	-	2.4
1971	1.8	3.0	2.5	2.8	2.2	2.6	3.8	-	2.4
1972	1.9	3.2	2.5	2.9	2.3	2.6	3.8	0.4	2.5
1973	1.9	3.3	2.4	2.9	2.3	2.7	3.4	0.6	2.5
1974	2.0	3.4	2.4	3.0	2.5	2.8	3.1	0.6	2.6
1975	2.0	3.4	2.2	3.0	2.4	2.7	2.9	0.6	2.5
1976	1.9	3.5	2.2	3.0	2.5	2.7	1.1	0.5	2.5
1977	1.9	3.7	2.2	3.1	2.5	2.7	0.7	0.5	2.6
1978	2.0	3.8	2.3	3.2	2.5	2.8	0.8	0.5	2.7
1979	2.1	4.0	2.4	3.4	2.6	2.8	1.2	0.6	2.8
1980	2.3	4.2	2.6	3.6	2.6	3.0	1.4	0.7	3.0
1981	2.5	4.4	2.9	4.0	2.8	3.2	1.8	0.9	3.2

Continued on page 33

Table 8.1 **Enrolments in government and non government schools as a percentage of total enrolments : states/territories 1963-1981** *Continued*

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
				NON GOVERNMENT - TOTAL					
1963	24.7	27.0	23.4	16.6	21.3	17.3	17.6	31.2	23.9
1964	24.7	26.8	23.9	16.2	21.1	17.4	27.9	30.6	23.9
1965	24.7	26.6	24.1	15.7	21.2	17.5	28.5	30.6	23.8
1966	24.2	25.9	24.0	15.1	20.7	17.5	22.2	30.4	23.3
1967	23.9	25.6	23.7	14.7	20.4	16.8	20.9	30.1	23.0
1968	23.4	25.3	23.6	14.2	20.1	16.3	20.5	28.9	22.6
1969	22.9	24.9	23.4	14.0	19.6	15.7	18.0	27.5	22.2
1970	22.6	24.6	23.3	14.0	19.4	15.4	16.5	26.8	22.0
1971	22.4	24.4	23.2	14.1	19.0	15.2	16.2	27.0	21.8
1972	22.1	24.2	22.9	13.9	18.7	14.9	15.5	27.1	21.[illegible]
1973	22.1	24.1	22.4	14.1	18.7	14.9	14.6	27.0	21.5
1974	22.0	24.4	22.3	14.3	18.6	15.8	14.9	26.4	21.5
1975	21.7	24.3	21.8	14.3	18.4	15.7	14.2	25.7	21.3
1976	21.5	24.4	21.5	14.4	17.9	15.7	12.9	25.5	21.2
1977	21.3	24.5	21.4	14.5	17.5	15.8	13.0	26.2	21.1
1978	21.4	24.9	21.4	14.6	17.4	16.2	13.1	26.8	21.3
1979	21.8	25.6	21.4	15.1	17.5	16.5	14.9	28.4	21.7
1980	22.4	26.3	21.6	15.8	17.8	16.8	15.5	29.4	22.3
1981	23.1	27.1	21.8	16.9	18.4	17.3	15.3	30.4	23.0

Table 8.2 **Extent of increase in total non government school enrolments attributable to non government education sectors, 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81, Australia**

	Anglican	Roman Catholic	Other Non Government	Total
1978-79				
Enrolment increase	1417	6590	4039	12 046
Sectoral enrolment increase as % of total enrolment increase	11.8	54.7	33.5	-
1979-80	1296	10039	5103	16 438
	7.9	61.1	31.0	-
1980-81	2749	12405	6703	21 857
	12.6	56.7	30.7	-

Figure 8.1 **Non government enrolments as a percentage of total school enrolments 1963-1981**

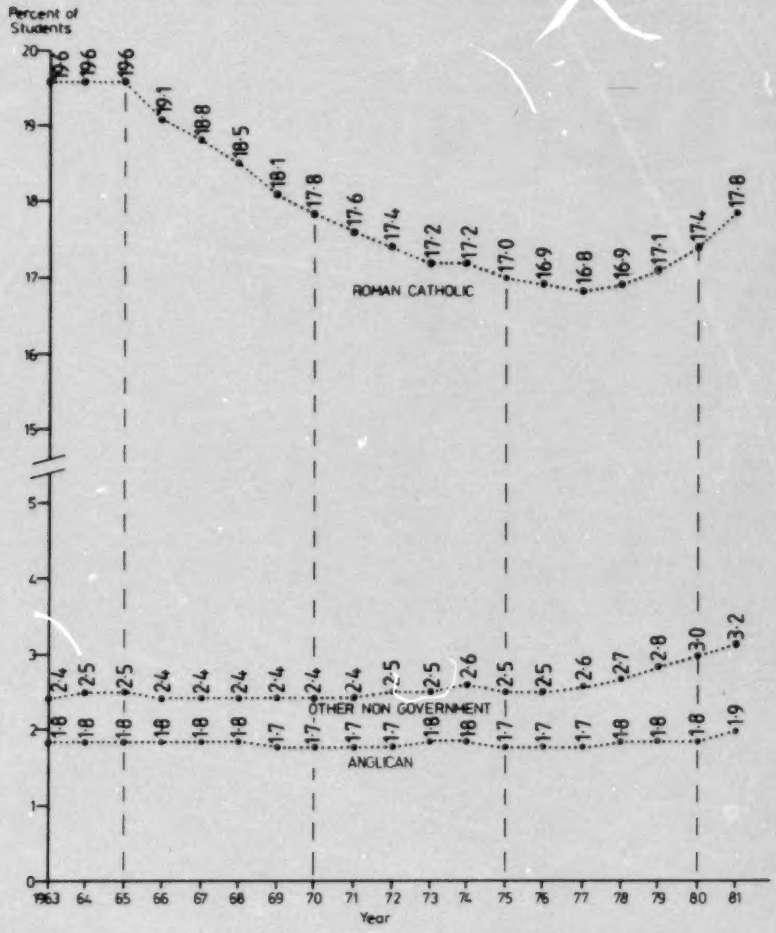


Figure 8.2 **Government school enrolments as a percentage of total enrolments : states/territories 1963-1981**

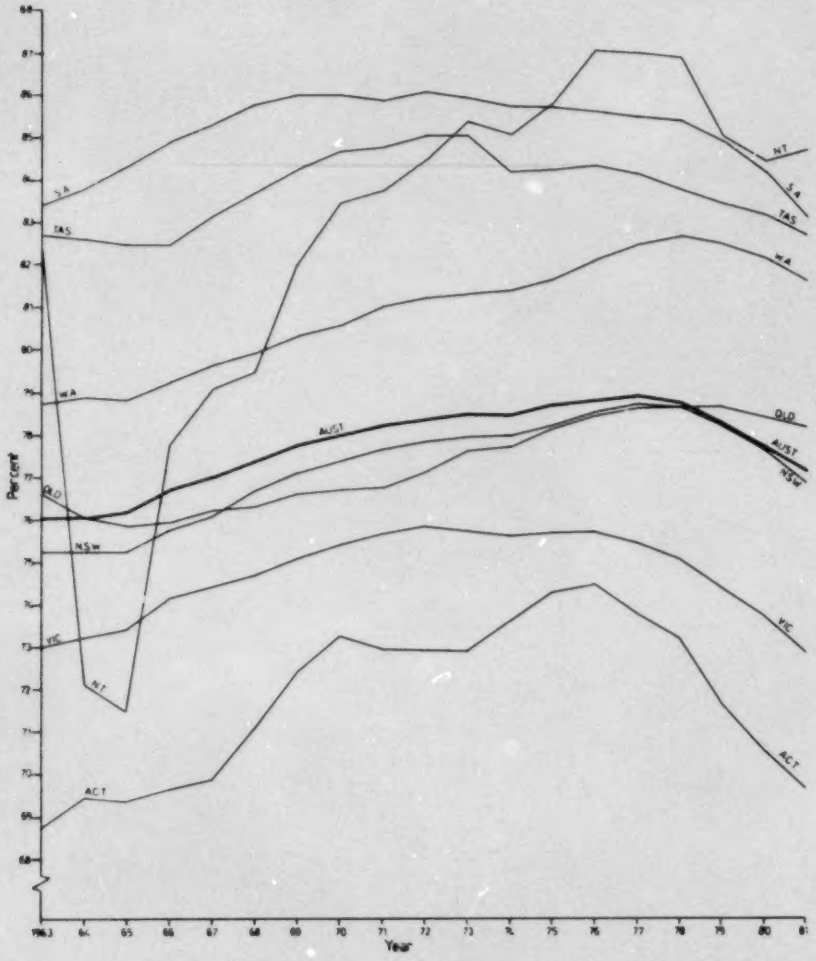
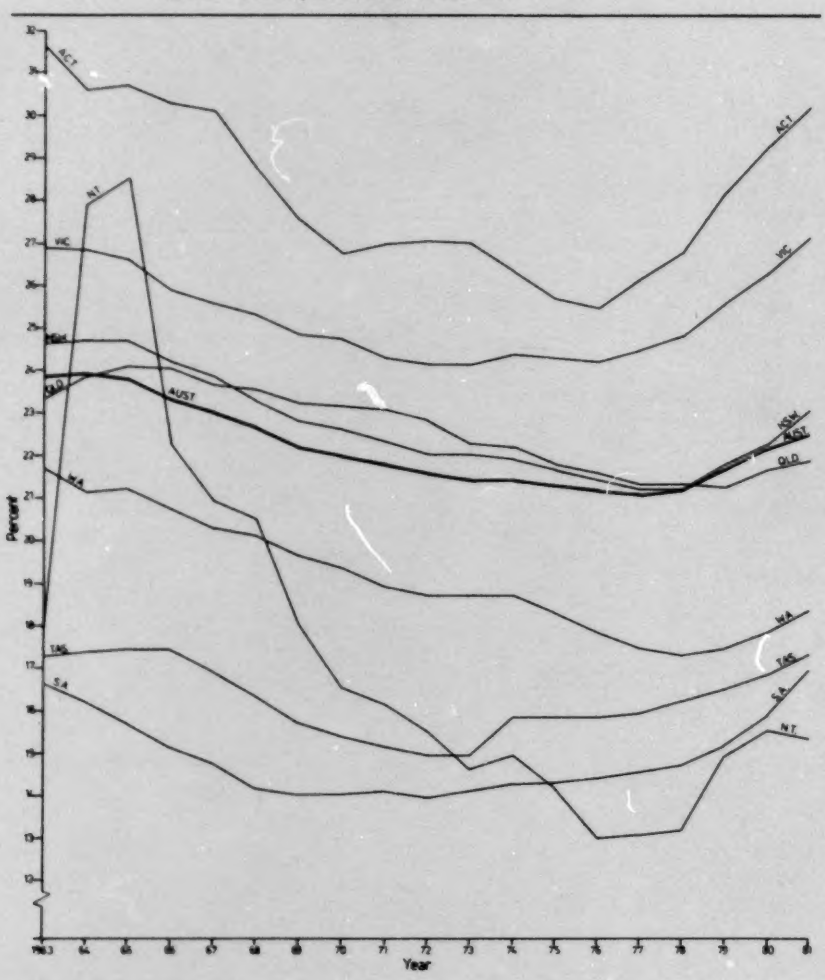


Figure 8.3 **Non government school enrolments as a percentage of total enrolments : states/territories 1963-1981**



9 Primary/Secondary School Enrolments

9.1 ***Total Australia.*** (Figure 9.3). Primary school enrolments increased from 1965 to 1971 and from 1974 to 1979, and declined from 1972 to 1973 and from 1980 to 1981. Secondary enrolments increased from 1965 to 1976, declined from 1977 to 1980 and then increased in 1981.

9.2 ***Proportion of primary enrolments to total.*** (Figure 9.1). Primary school enrolments in 1965 accounted for 68.2% of total school enrolments. This proportion declined to 61.8% in 1976, then increased to 63.0% in 1979 and declined to 62.6% in 1981.

9.3 ***Proportion of primary/secondary/government to total primary/secondary enrolments.*** (Figure 9.2). Government primary school enrolments increased from 77.3% of total primary enrolments in 1965 to a high of 80.8% in 1978, and then decreased to 79.3% in 1981. Government secondary school enrolments increased slightly as a percentage of total secondary enrolments, from 73.6% in 1965 to 75.8% in 1976, and then declined to 72.8% in 1981.

9.4 ***Proportion of primary/secondary/government/non government to total enrolments.*** (Figure 9.3). Government primary school enrolments have generally declined as a proportion of total enrolments, while the non government primary school enrolments declined in 1977 and then increased. Government secondary enrolments as a proportion of total enrolments increased between 1965 and 1975 and then declined to 1980, while the non government secondary proportion generally increased between 1965 and 1981.

9.5 ***State/territory trends.*** (Figure 9.4). In most systems there was a decline in government primary school enrolments in 1980 and 1981 while non government primary enrolments either increased slightly or remained the same. Secondary government enrolments declined for most systems from 1976 with a slight recovery for 1981. Non government secondary enrolments in all systems have increased.

Figure 9.1 **Proportion of government primary to total primary; proportion of government secondary to total secondary 1965-1981**

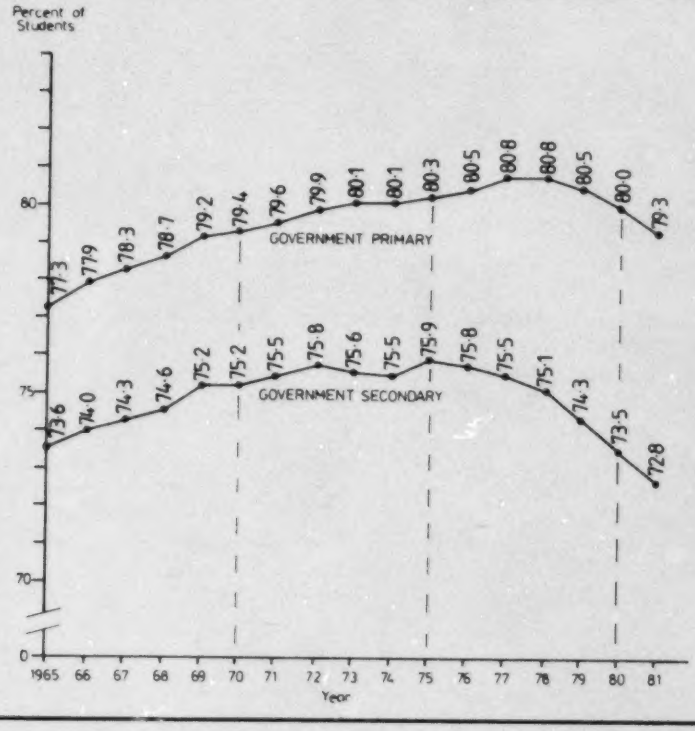


Figure 9.2 **Primary/secondary enrolments as a percentage of total school enrolments 1965-1981**

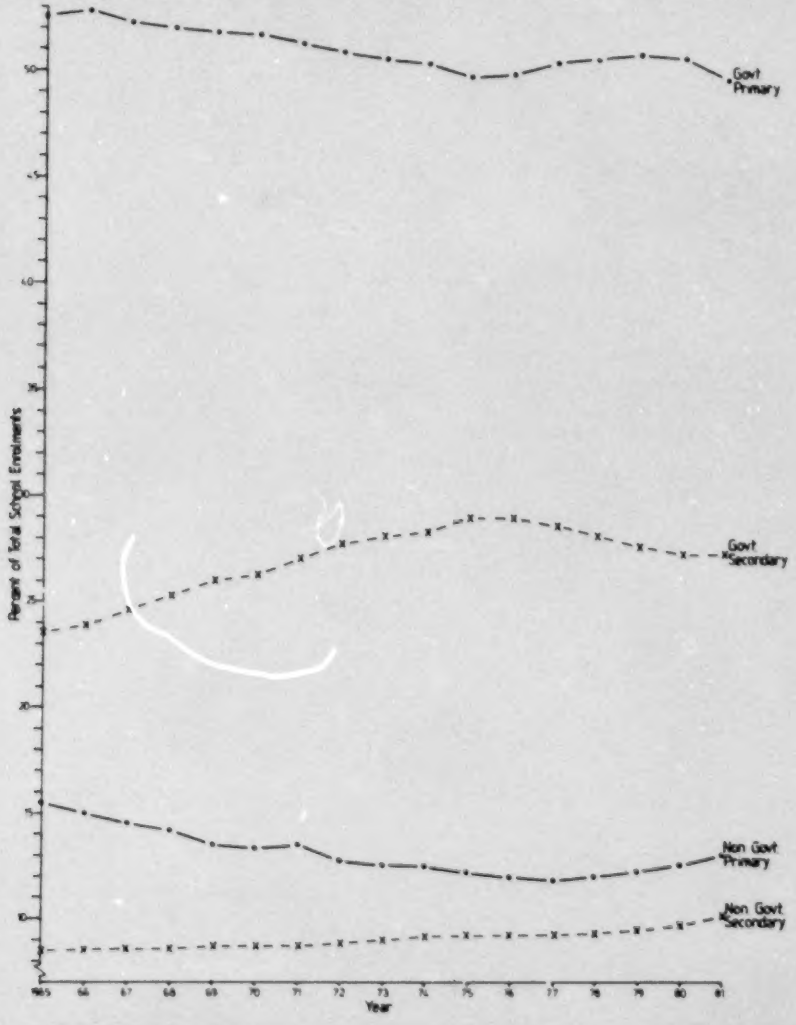


Figure 9.3 **Australia : total enrolments (primary/secondary government/non government) 1965-1981**

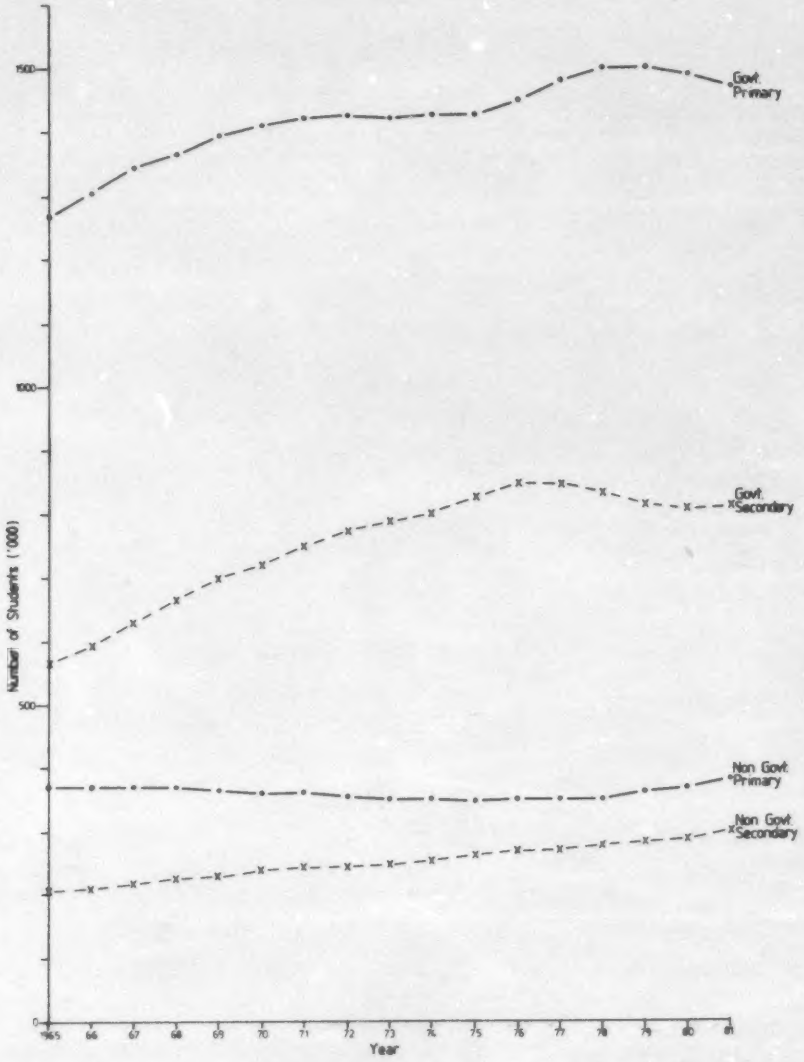


Figure 9.4(1) NSW : total enrolments (primary/secondary, government/non government) 1965-1981

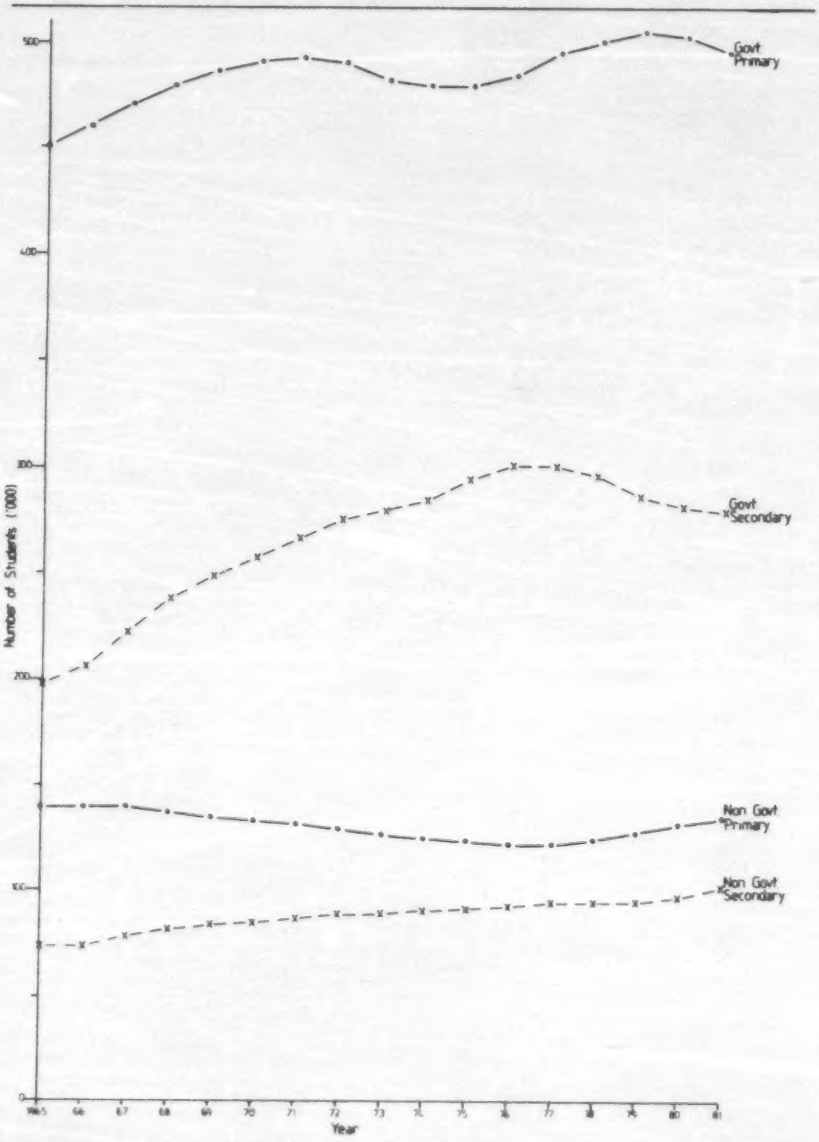


Figure 9.4(2) Vic : total enrolments (primary/secondary, government/non government) 1965-198

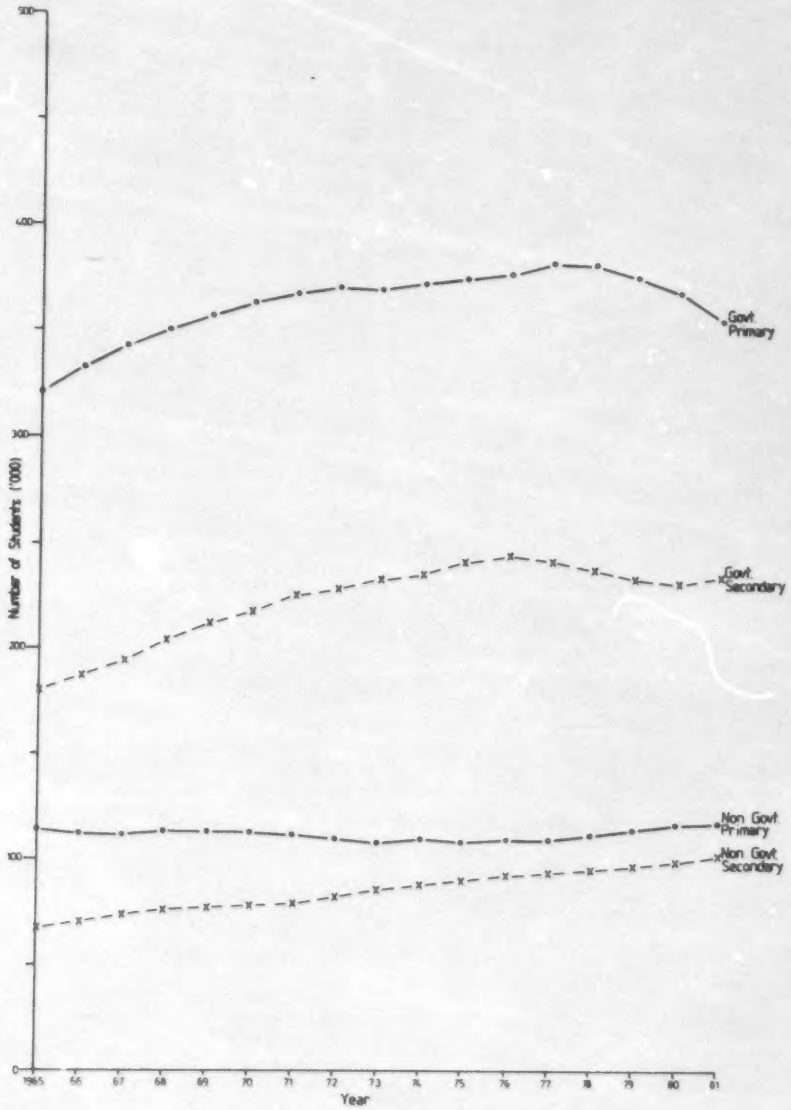


Figure 9.4(3) Qld : total enrolments (primary/secondary, government/non government) 1965-1981

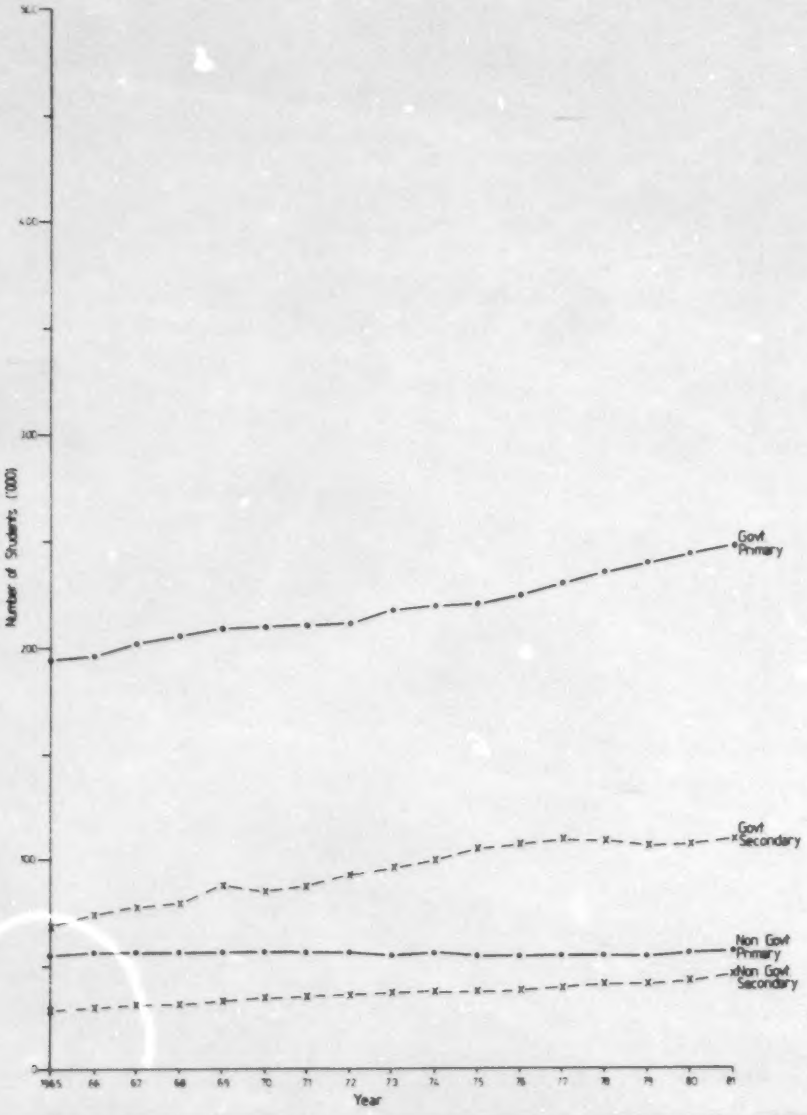


Figure 9.4(4) SA : total enrolments (primary/secondary, government/non government) 1965-1981

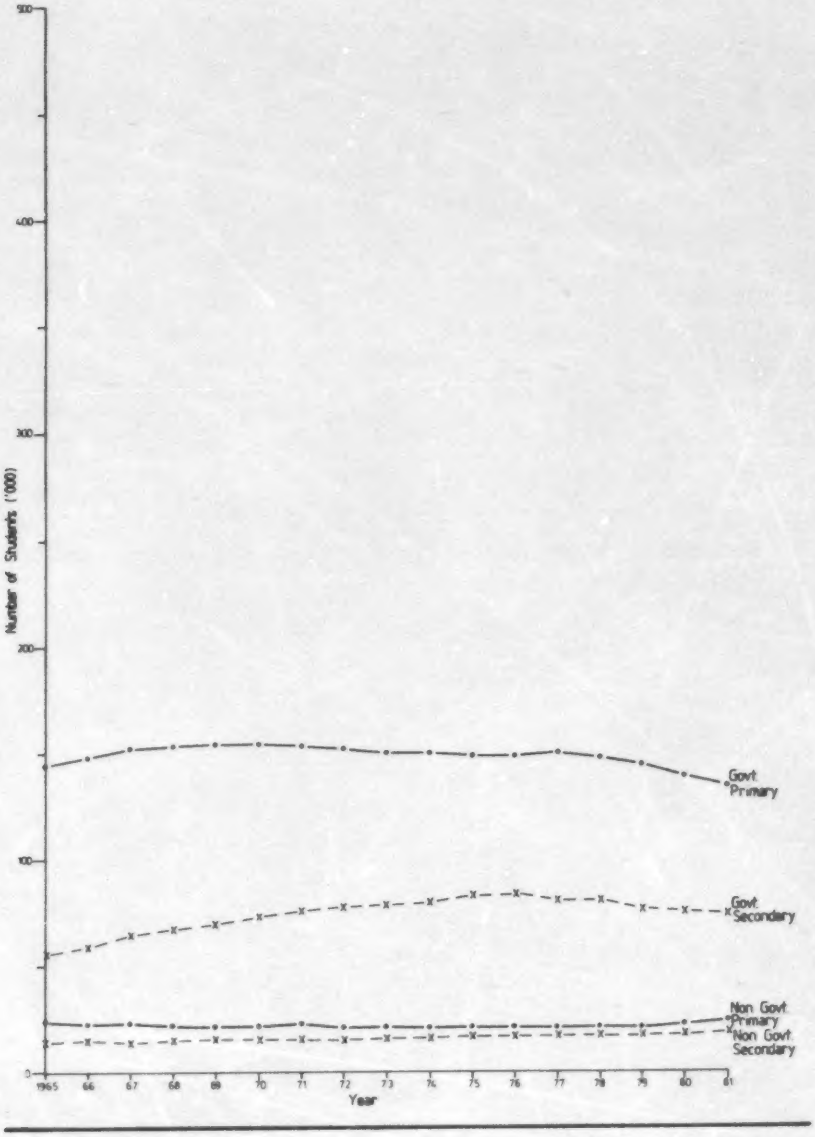


Figure 9.4(5) WA : total enrolments (primary/secondary, government/non government) 1965-1981

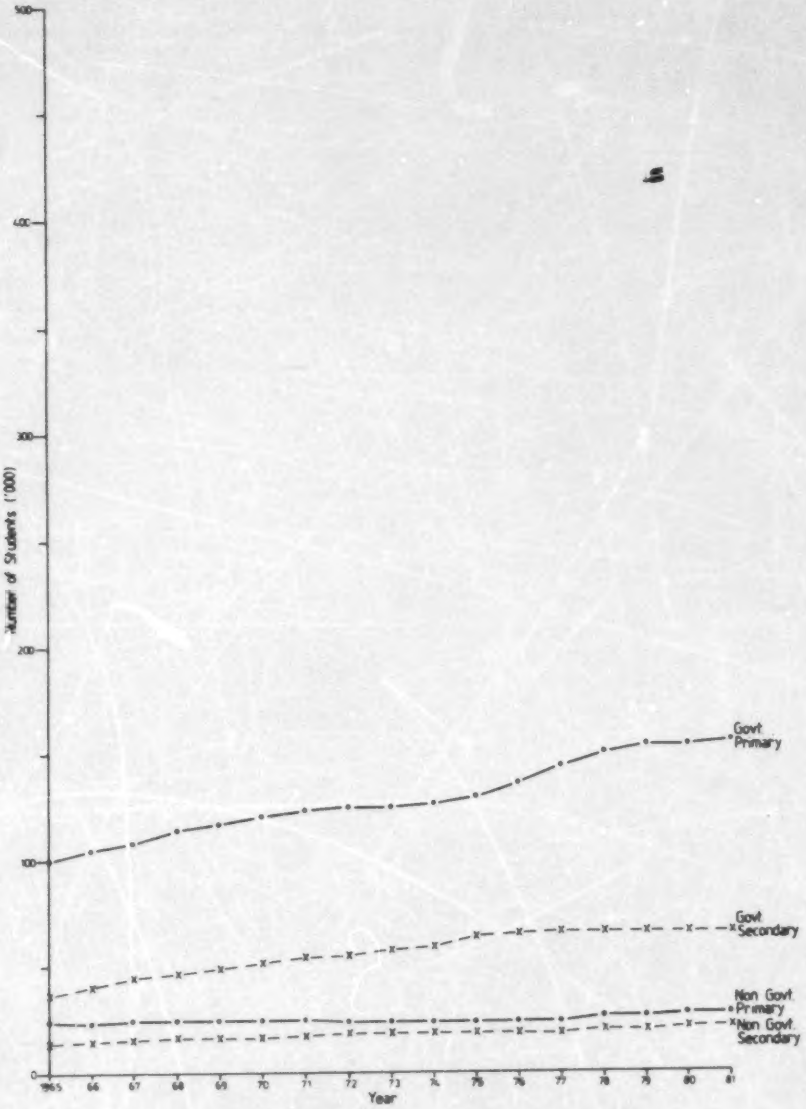


Figure 9.4(6) Tas : total enrolments (primary/secondary, government/non government) 1965-1981

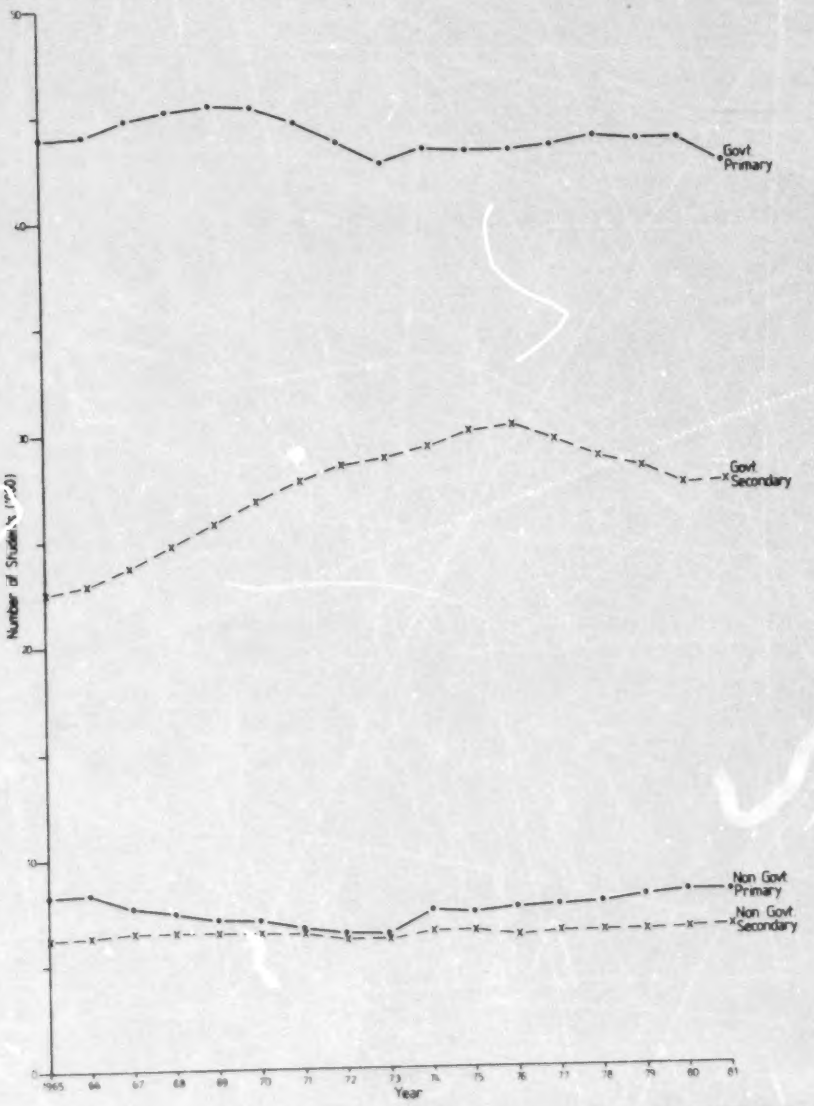
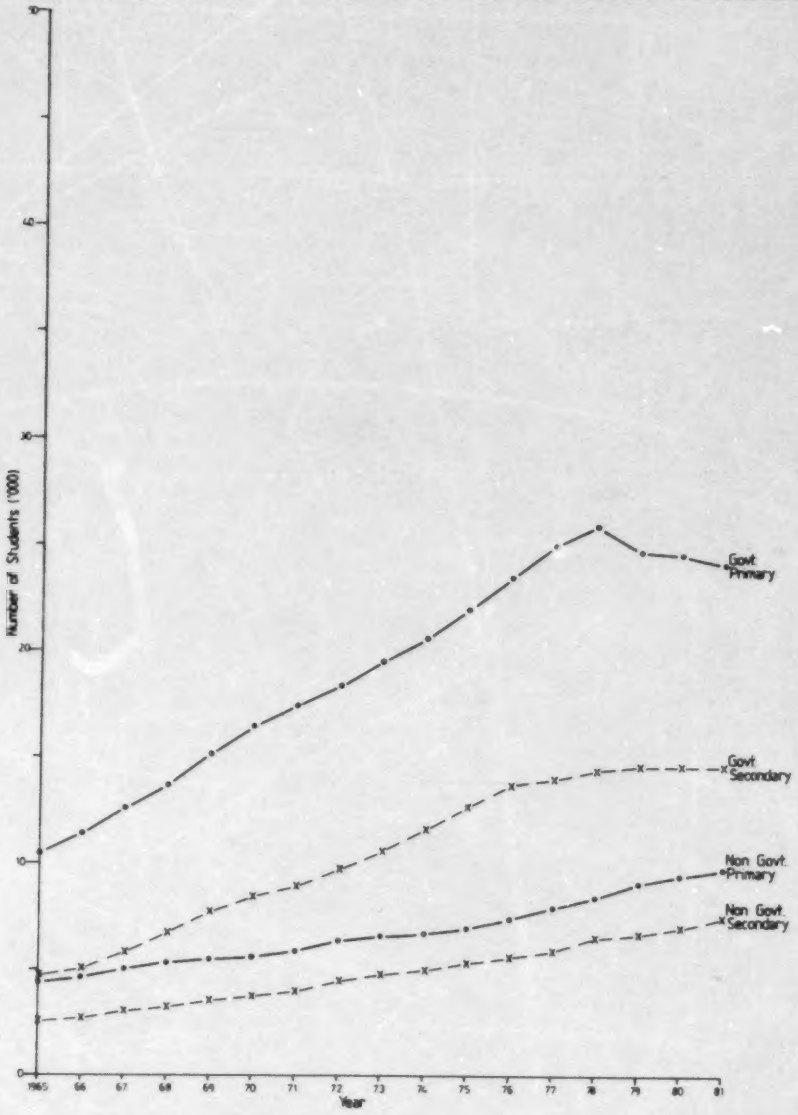


Figure 9.4(7) NT : total enrolments (primary/secondary, government/non government) 1965-1981

Figure 4(8) ACT : total enrolments (primary/secondary, government/non government) 1965-1981



10 Progression Rates, Primary to Secondary Grades

10.1 ***Total Australia government schools.*** (Figure 10.1). There is an apparent gain in enrolments between government primary and secondary grades from 1966 to 1971, with progression rates of more than 100%. Between 1971 and 1981 there has been a gradual decline in the proportion of students moving from government primary to secondary grades, from 99.3% to 95.1% in 1981. This indicates an apparent loss in enrolments for government schools from 1971 to 1981.

10.2 ***Total Australia non government schools.*** (Figure 10.1). In 1966, 1968 and 1969 there appear to have been losses of students between non government primary and secondary grades with progression rates of less than 100%. In 1967 the progression rate was over 100%. Between 1970 and 1981 non government schools showed gains in enrolments between primary and secondary grades with progression rates in excess of 100%. During this same period there also has been a growth in the magnitude of the gains, with progression rates increasing from 101% in 1970 to 120% in 1981. Figure 10.1 shows that in 1967, 1970 and 1971 the progression rates were over 100% both for the government and non government sectors. Normally it would be expected that, as one sector's rates move above 100%, the other sector would decline to below 100%. This may be affected, however, by such occurrences as interstate and international migration, special education programmes and inter-school transfers.

10.3 ***State/territory differences, government sector.*** (Table 10.1). All systems except Qld have generally shown a decline in the retention rate between 1966 and 1981. The pattern of decline is different for all systems: NSW drops below a retention rate of 100% in 1970, Vic in 1974, SA in 1978, WA in 1972, Tas in 1971 and the ACT in 1970. The NT fluctuates above and below 100% throughout the period between 1966 and 1981. Qld actually recorded an increase in the retention rate, going from 93.4% in 1966 to 95.5% in 1981.

10.4 ***State/territory differences, non government sector.*** (Figure 10.1). In all systems except the ACT, retention rates increased between 1966 and 1981. The pattern of increase is different between systems. NSW and Vic increased to above 100% in 1977 and 1974 respectively, Qld,

WA and Tas have had retention rates above 100% and increasing throughout this period, and SA declined to below 100% in 1975, while the ACT fluctuated above 100% throughout this period.

Table 10.1 Apparent progression rates (a) from primary to secondary education, (b) government and non government schools : states/territories 1966-1981

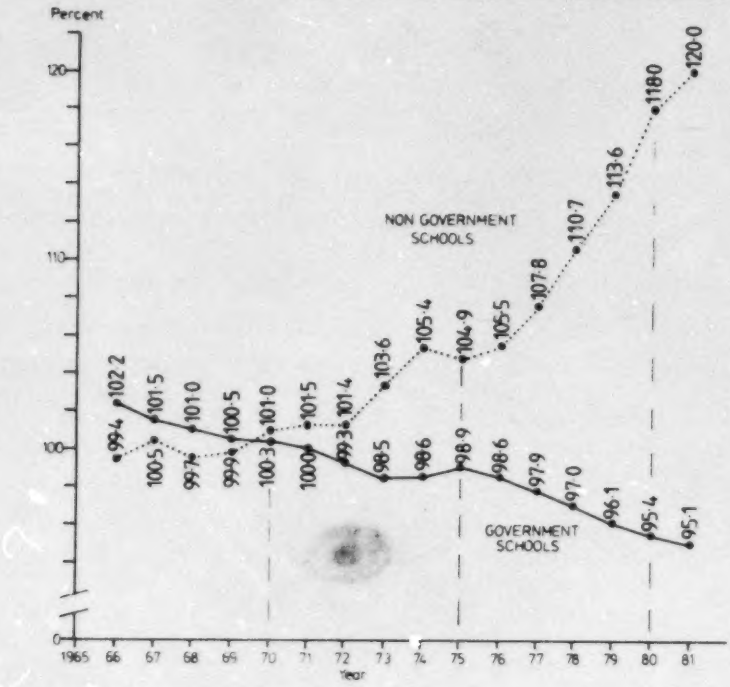
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
					GOVERNMENT				
1966	102.1	106.9	93.4	105.3	100.6	101.5	100.0	99.9	102.2
1967	101.4	105.5	93.0	104.7	100.7	103.3	93.9	100.4	101.5
1968	100.8	104.0	94.5	103.1	100.1	102.9	98.8	103.1	101.0
1969	100.0	103.8	94.2	102.7	99.9	100.4	102.6	101.5	100.5
1970	99.2	104.3	94.5	102.3	100.3	100.3	112.6	98.1	100.3
1971	98.7	103.3	95.6	102.5	100.4	99.1	109.9	93.3	100.0
1972	97.6	102.1	97.6	101.6	97.8	99.7	114.0	97.1	99.3
1973	96.7	100.8	97.2	102.6	96.4	97.4	113.7	94.0	98.5
1974	97.9	99.8	96.5	101.5	98.2	98.9	105.1	96.2	98.6
1975	98.8	99.2	97.1	101.8	98.4	98.5	95.0	96.4	98.9
1976	98.8	98.9	96.7	101.1	97.2	97.8	127.6	91.8	98.6
1977	98.3	98.0	95.9	101.5	97.4	97.2	91.4	87.7	97.9
1978	97.6	97.2	95.3	99.9	95.6	97.3	92.3	92.6	97.0
1979	96.5	96.5	94.6	98.0	95.0	97.7	93.3	90.3	96.1
1980	95.6	95.8	94.1	97.6	93.1	97.3	101.8	91.0	95.4
1981	94.7	95.0	95.5	97.2	93.9	96.3	98.2	91.3	95.1
					NON GOVERNMENT				
1966	97.0	91.9	107.7	103.9	121.7	110.5	58.7	124.5	99.4
1967	96.7	95.0	110.7	97.0	124.1	110.6	61.5	115.9	100.5
1968	95.6	94.3	109.6	97.9	121.5	108.9	73.1	119.1	99.7
1967	96.1	93.0	113.0	99.8	120.8	106.5	64.4	110.7	99.9
1970	97.5	93.4	113.5	104.8	120.9	108.8	70.4	118.6	101.0
1971	99.0	93.7	114.4	104.1	116.3	108.6	73.6	121.4	101.5
1972	98.5	95.4	111.2	101.8	120.0	104.5	78.3	110.6	101.4
1973	99.0	98.5	112.2	108.7	122.0	115.9	97.5	114.6	103.6
1974	99.0	101.2	116.0	110.5	126.2	112.8	90.5	112.7	105.4
1975	98.8	103.0	110.9	198.4	123.6	116.7	113.9	108.1	104.9
1976	99.1	102.8	114.4	108.2	125.2	110.4	112.8	112.6	105.5
1977	101.4	106.6	118.2	106.4	122.3	112.3	83.9	113.4	107.8
1978	103.6	109.2	119.8	109.5	130.0	115.8	96.2	118.6	110.7
1979	107.9	111.3	120.8	118.5	130.1	110.4	104.1	122.0	113.6
1980	112.6	115.3	127.4	121.4	135.5	116.4	95.6	116.6	118.0
1981	114.1	117.5	130.9	123.2	135.9	119.6	101.5	119.1	120.0

(a) The apparent progression rate is a measure of the tendency of students to remain in school from one year to the next. The rate is "apparent" because factors such as migration from one state to another and repetition of a school year are not taken into account.

Interpretation of the table : figures for say, 1966 show the number of students enrolled in the first year of secondary education in 1966 expressed as a proportion of the number enrolled in the last year of primary education in 1965.

(b) In NSW, Vic, Tas and ACT primary education is completed in year 6; in Qld, SA, WA and NT primary education is completed in year 7.

Figure 10.1 **Apparent progression rates from primary to secondary education 1966-1981**



11 Number of Schools, Average Enrolments

11.1 Statistics relating to the number of schools need to be treated with particular caution, since changes in the number of schools frequently reflect changes in administrative policy rather than in enrolment patterns. Such changes in policy would include the consolidation of rural schools, the amalgamation of adjacent schools and school amalgamation in the Catholic education systems.

11.2 ***Number of schools.*** (Table 11.1). In 1970 Australia had 7470 government schools, in 1975 there were 7266, and in 1981 there were 7469. Non government schools increased from 2180 in 1970 to 2261 in 1981, while total schools went from 9650 in 1970 to a low of 9406 in 1975, and then increased to 9730 in 1981.

11.3 ***Proportion of non government schools.*** (Figure 11.1). The proportion of non government schools in Australia showed a gradual increase between 1970 and 1978 with a slight downturn in 1977. In 1970 the proportion was 22.6% and in 1981 23.3%.

11.4 ***State/territory proportions.*** (Figure 11.1) Most systems have shown a slight decline in the proportion of non government schools between 1970 and 1978 followed by a slight increase to 1981. NSW and Vic have shown increases with fluctuations for the period from 1970 to 1981. NSW (26.4%) and the ACT (26.2%) have the highest proportions of non government schools while the NT (9.1%) has by far the lowest proportion.

11.5 ***Average enrolments : government schools.*** (Figures 11.2, 11.3). From 1970 to 1978, government schools in Australia generally increased in average size (enrolments) and then declined from 1979 to 1981. Average enrolments per school changed from 288.6 students per school in 1970 to a high of 321.6 in 1977 and fell to 309.9 in 1981. Most systems showed a similar pattern with the exception of the ACT and Tas, which have both shown a general decline in school size for the whole period from 1970 to 1981.

11.6 ***Average enrolments : non government schools.*** (Figures 11.2, 11.4). All systems display a general pattern of increasing non government school size between 1970 and 1981. The average size of a school has grown from 278.5 students per school in 1970 to 305.0 in 1981.

Table 11.1 Number of schools, government and non government 1970-1981

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
				GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS					
1970	2415	2215	1236	651	589	238	79	47	7470
1971	2377	2197	1228	631	598	239	85	49	7404
1972	2335	2194	1229	615	606	239	90	54	7362
1973	2287	2179	1228	614	613	241	91	58	7311
1974	2271	2161	1225	613	621	245	94	65	7295
1975	2246	2161	1209	619	629	247	86	69	7266
1976	2225	2173	1209	625	640	250	115	78	7315
1977	2223	2163	1223	626	648	251	110	82	7326
1978	2228	2152	1235	628	659	255	120	87	7364
1979	2221	2155	1249	632	674	254	119	89	7393
1980	2225	2158	1256	638	690	259	128	90	7444
1981	2236	2149	1268	638	695	260	130	93	7469
				NON GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS					
1970	790	581	342	170	196	65	14	22	2180
1971	793	571	345	169	200	63	20	23	2184
1972	818	571	339	163	197	59	19	25	2191
1973	808	569	339	163	197	57	18	25	2176
1974	804	571	337	157	192	56	17	23	2157
1975	794	578	331	151	191	58	12	25	2140
1976	791	586	331	147	187	61	11	24	2138
1977	777	584	331	145	188	62	11	27	2125
1978	773	600	334	151	187	61	11	28	2145
1979	794	617	335	155	196	60	13	30	2200
1980	799	633	341	159	198	59	13	33	2235
1981	804	632	349	163	206	61	13	33	2261

Figure 11.1 **Percentage of non government schools to total schools : states/ territories 1970-1981**

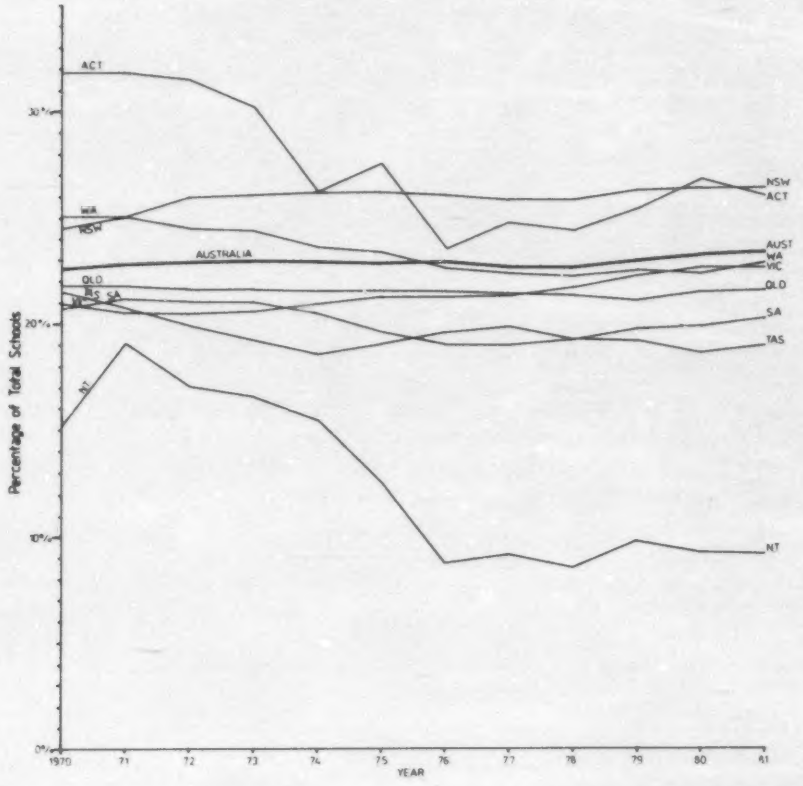


Figure 11.2 **Average size of schools (enrolments) : government/non government 1970-1981**

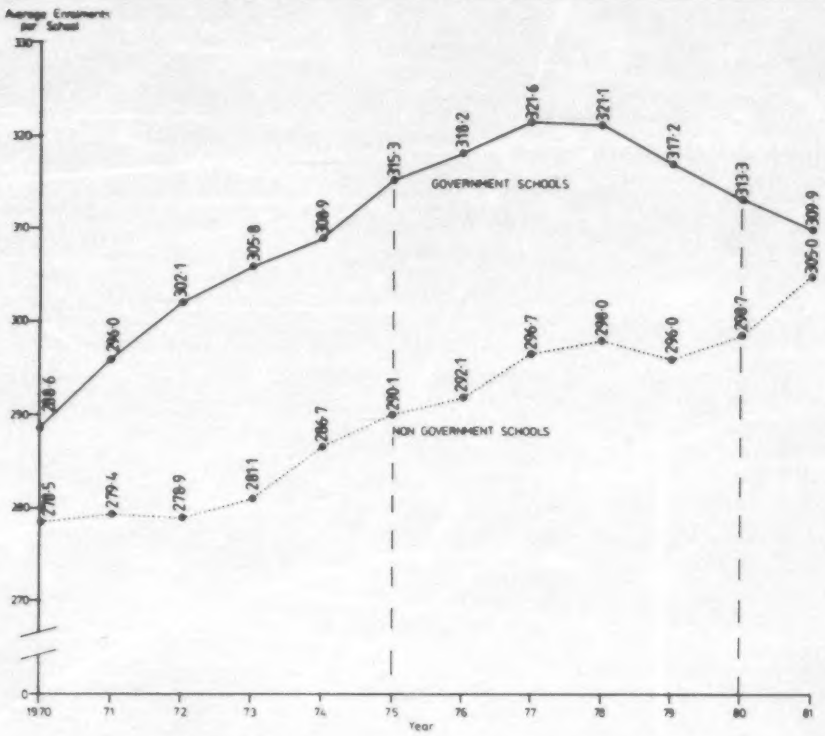


Figure 11.3 **Average number of enrolments per government school : states/ territories 1970-1981**

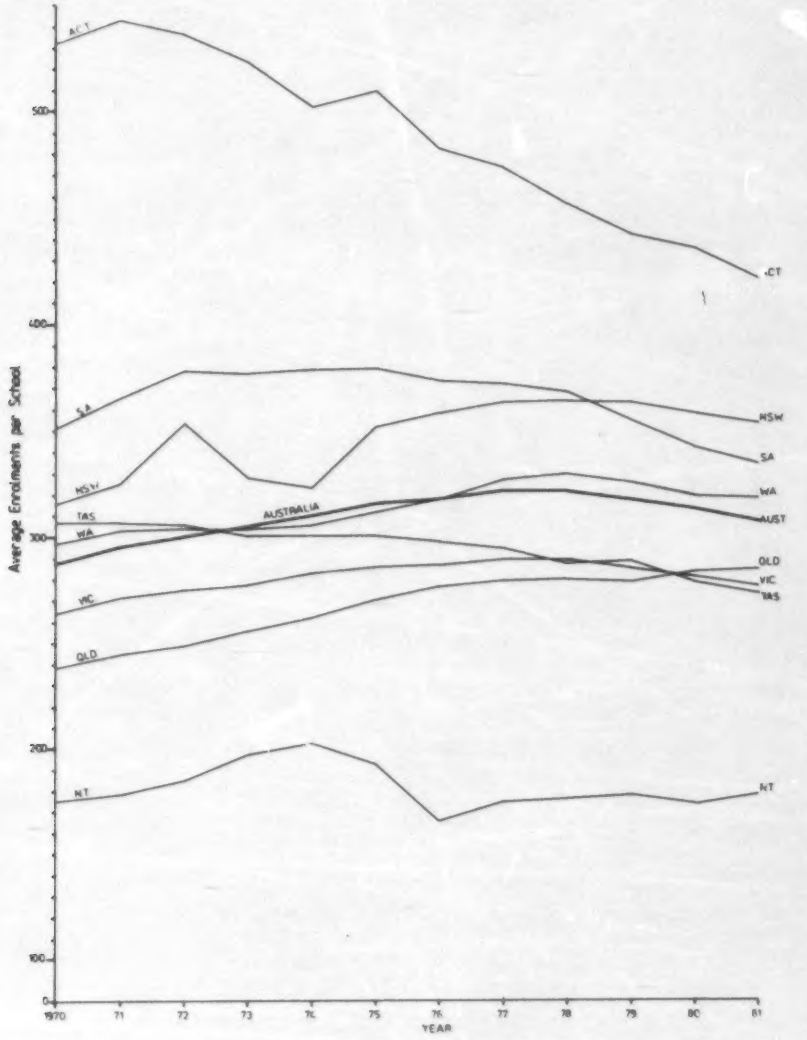
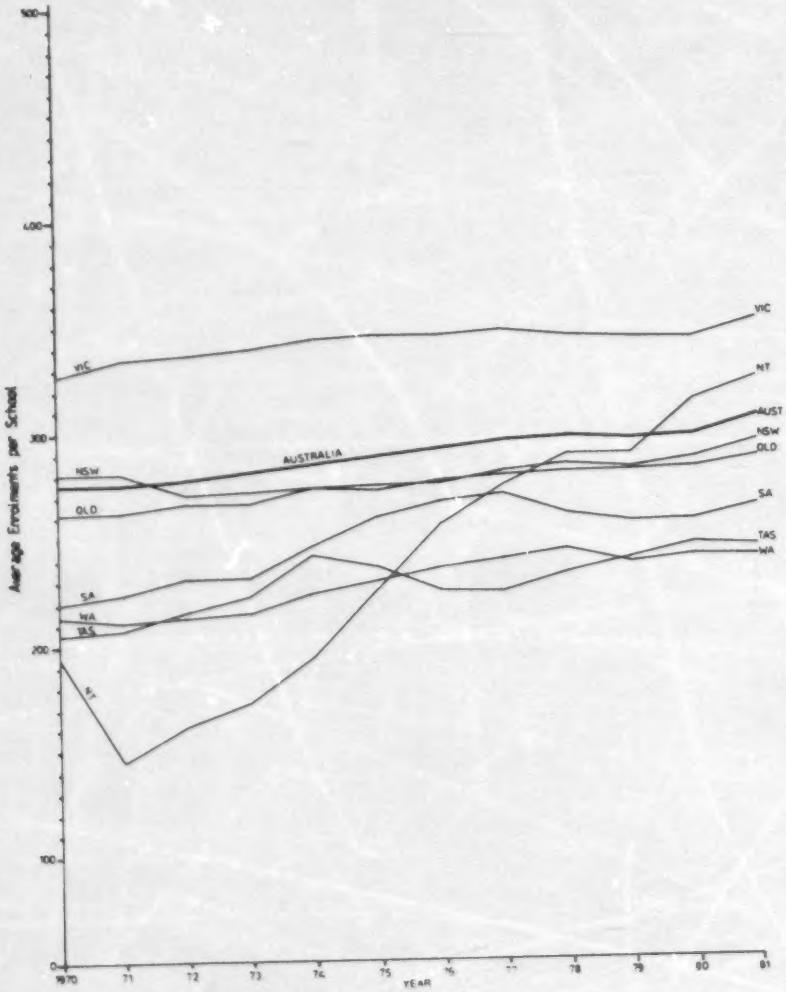


Figure 11.4 **Average number of enrolments per non government school : states/ territories 1970-1981**



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